

Some of your critics in England maintain your management has not been flexible enough in selecting the players for the team. Can you foresee any substantial changes in the line-up we will see in Italy in June?

If my critics in England would be their own critics, they would complain that Mr Revie was too flexible. What I've tried to do is to bring stability to the England side: by that I mean continuity and understanding. This is what the Italian side, just as any other national team, are trying to do, because flexibility is alright, but you don't achieve success if the team is continually changed. Mr Revie was criticised for this and for not winning. I also have my critics and England have been getting results! You just can't win.

We have established some continuity in the international scene

results! You just can't win.

We have established some continuity in the international scene here in England, with the growth of the Youth and Under-21 sides. I feel we know where we are going, and we have good people in charge of the different sides, and we feel that the ultimate is being achieved, first and foremost in attaining entry into the European Championship Finals. The eight best teams in Europe will be in Italy, and what we have to do now is see how good we really are.

It has been written that the European Championship is your priority, but your object must be the World Cup.

No, I don't agree with that. I think first and foremost the ultimate is the European Championship at the moment. The World Cup is two years away, and we must take each hurdle as it comes. We must not plan for the future and forget about the present. Football is all about the present. Football is all about the present. I think the English public has been starved of success over the years, and in consequence they would like us to do well in Europe. I am not saying how we will fare, but we would like to feel we won't let the English public down. Then, after Europe, we can look towards the World Cup. But my priority at the moment is definitely the European Championship.

Which reasons do you think led to England being eliminated

pean Championship.
Which reasons do you think led to England being eliminated from the last two European Championships and World Cups?

Championships and World Cups?

The 1974 World Cup was a very tight situation with Poland at Wembley, when England drew. The Poles went on to Germany to do well, finishing third. I took over when it was almost impossible to catch Italy in 1977, but we tried, and beat them 2-0 at Wembley. Of course, all they had to do was score more goals against Luxembourg than we had. The fact they were the only side to qualify for the World Cup on goal-difference spoke highly of the qualifying group which we were in Italy did extremely well in Argentina, and I went on record and said they should have won the World Cup, because I thought they were the best side. So Poland and Italy, who knocked England out of those two World Cup competitions, were both successful in the Finals. That, in retrospect, shows the qualities they had to have to beat England. in retrospect, shows the qualities they had to have to beat England. Not that this was any consolation to England, because we did not go

Since Ron Greenwood took over as international manager in the autumn of 1977, England have steadily re-emerged as a major footballing nation. Now Greenwood must prepare his side for the forthcoming European Championship Finals in Italy this year, and in this interview the England boss talks about his hopes and plans for the exciting times ahead.





there! We have qualified for the there! We have qualified for the European Championship Finals, and we should do well. In this tournament the last time England were absent the format was different. When England played in Germany in the 1972 Quarter-Finals, instead of all the matches being played in one place, they were spread out in different countries. Then, of course, we were beaten spread out in different countries. Then, of course, we were beaten by Czechoslovakia in the 1976 competition. I think English football gets very parochial; and one reason is that we are more concerned with our League, where we have very good sides. But as Enzo Bearzot said to me: "The trouble with your football is that you have too many foreigners." By foreigners he means Welsh, Scottish and Irish. And this is truel Liverpool have won the European Cup with foreigners, and so have Nottingham Forest. The standard of English club football is high, but international football has not been international football has not been as high as we would like, and we

What situation did you find in the England camp when you took over from Don Revie, and how have you tried to improve

The first thing I noticed was the lack of confidence. I tried to correct that first with continuity, by letting people know that the first thing I wanted in players was character and skill. My own philosophy of football has been related to the fact I believe it is a skilful and artistic game, and I look for that type of player. Secondly, we wanted to create a desire for the players to want to play for England. It is not a coincidence that every time we pick a group of players to report for England, all of them turn up, while not long ago out of 22 only about 14 turned up, with a lot making excuses for their absences. We've overcome that, and we've created a team spirit, by the continuity of selection. We have a group of players who are very conscious of the fact they have a big responsibility to help put England back on the football map. At the same time, contrary to what people think, we have some skilful players, like Kevin Keegan, European Player of the Year for two years. In Ray Clemence and Peter Shilton we possess two of the best goalkeepers in the world. There is also Trevor Brooking and young players of the qualities of Peter Barnes, Ray Wilkins, Tony Woodcock, Glenn Hod-The first thing I noticed was the lack of confidence. I tried to correct





The fact we can fill Wembley every time is testimony to that. The public are fed up with negative attitudes, so our style is pleasing them. We score goals; more in the qualifying rounds of the European Championship than any other team, so we have proved our point there. And we haven't conceded many, contrary to what people may think. To me, the game of football is all about being positive. If all you are concerned about is stopping the other team from scoring you become boring. With this philosophy I hope to continue with the English side, and I have a group of people who think along the same lines. We hope we can carry that even in the most intense arena of competition, such as the European Championship, because it's no use believing something if

were fears that he'd broken an ankle, which would have meant he wouldn't have been in Italy. These possibilities in the game of football possibilities in the game of football are always there, nobody can escape that. But, assuming that nobody is going to get injured, yes, in my own mind I think I have formulated the type of people that I would like to be playing in Italy. I was talking to the Dutch manager Jan Zwartkruis at a conference we had in Switzerland, and he told me he might take only 18 players to Italy, rather than 22, because it means that some of them will not be involved. We feel in our squad we've got such a good spirit that it does not matter who's playing in the 11 shirts out in the field. All 22 will be right behind the team. will be right behind the team. Everybody will have a big part to play, even if they are not out there

dle and Trevor Francis. All exciting players capable of achieving great success with England.

success with England.

Can you say that all your plans as manager of England have materialised so far?

We are quite satisfied with the progress made so far. We have achieved continuity, background staff who look after the Youth and Under-21 teams, managers such as Dave Sexton, Terry Venables, Bobby Robson, Don Howe, John Cartwright, who are committed to the welfare and the good of English football. That is important. We want to make England a proud We want to make England a proud nation again, we want the rest of the world to sit up and take notice. Having done that, all we can now hope for is continued success in all hope for is continued success in all three European competitions. Our Youth team have to beat Denmark to compete in East Germany for the U.E.F.A. tournament; our Under-21 side are in the Semi-Finals after beating Scotland, and we are also in the Final competition of the European Championship. What we've now got to do is prove ourselves at those three different levels. If we can do that, we will have achieved something.

There seems to be some

There seems to be some doubts as to the defence and midfield sections of the team, which you have fielded so far. Do you agree that these departments could be improved?

These criticisms have come from journalists. We have the players who can present problems to the rest of the world, and it's up to us to prove our thinking is correct. We won't know until we get to Italy. We'll either come back with

Trevor Brooking torments the Italian defence at Wembley in 1977 (above). England won that game 2-0 and Ron Greenwood is hoping to continue that fine form. Certainly Kevin Keegan will play a vital role in the European Championship Finals. His latest international success was against the Republic of Ireland in February when he scored twice



our tails between our legs, or we'll come out with great acclaim. I don't know. But I can tell you that the players who wear the England shirt in Italy will not fail, certainly from the point of view of application, or of skill. Good fortune, one way or applied to the company of application. way or another, may not smile on us, or vice versa, because that's what life is all about, but we will do our best.

How would you define your philosophy of football management?

I have always believed the game of football should be entertaining.

at the final hurdle you freeze: we've got to continue our way.

What are your views on the
Italian side?

The last time I saw them was in Naples, on February 16th against Rumania. That served my purpose in two ways because Rumania are in our qualifying group for the World Cup. I think Italian football,

on the international side, has problems as much as any other. Enzo Bearzot, I believe, has problems in relation to some of his Juventus players who are not playing well at club level, but he has faith in them at international level. I think that is important, because international players deserve that loyalty. Enzo, like myself, is trying to create a continuity within the side, so it is steady and consistent. He deserves great credit for this. We have beaten Italy at Youth, Under-21 and senior level, and we hope to

continue that sequence.

Have you decided the 11 players who will play in Italy, or is there still the chance of more

changes?
That's a fair question, but football is the game of tomorrow, as you know. We have a very extensive League programme, already this season we have lost young Derek Statham, a very promising left-back from West Bromwich Albion, who has had a cartilage operation. Kevin Keegan was recently injured in Hamburg, there

on the pitch. That is what team spirit is all about. We seem to have achieved that, and I hope we can carry it over into the Champion-ship. God willing, we hope none of ship. God willing, we hope none of our senior players gets seriously injured, because in any international side that would be disastrous, and upset the plans. Having said that, form can never be taken into account. I hope none of my squad loses their form; but who knows, somebody might just emerge all of a sudden, like my two West Ham players Peters and Hurst in Sir Alf Ramsey's 1966 World Cup team. They made their presence felt on tour prior to the World Cup and emerged at the right time. Who knows what will occur this time? That is in the lap of the gods. of the gods.

And the game against Spain next week?

It's our last game on foreign soil before the European Championship Finals. Also, of course, it will give my players some idea of what to expect should we reach the 1982 World Cup Finals. The Spaniards haven't been in the best of form over the past year or so of form over the past year or so, but they'll be hard to beat and have two or three players who could cause us problems. From England's point of view, I'd like to see the good work continued in Parcelona

• Interview by Dr Giancarlo Galavotti for the Milan paper Il Giorno.





says Spain manager LADISLAO KUBALA

SHOOT: Is your job at stake in Spain's match against England? KUBALA: No, definitely not. There's no question of a change of manager before the European Championship Finals. In fact I was offered a new contract a couple of months ago, but I turned it down. Obviously I would like to handle Spain's 1982 World Cup preparations, but I feel it is better all round if we leave the signing of a new contract until after the European Championship in June.

SHOOT: Yet a lot of the Spanish sporting Press are openly criticis-

for the last ten years! I've learned to live with all the criticism. But I do recognise that if we fail dismally in Italy in June they'll fall on me like a ton of bricks. My future to the stake for this match in isn't at stake for this match in Barcelona, but it might be when we meet England again in Italy on June 18th. That could be my last game as Spain's manager.
SHOOT: So, bearing in mind that

the Spain-England confrontation in June might be vitally important, will you be fielding a reserve team for this friendly game and keeping a few aces hidden up your sleeve

KUBALA: This is something I haven't yet decided. First of all, let me assure all your readers that we are taking this match seriously. Secondly, I have named exactly the same squad of 20 players that played in our recent games against Holland and East Germany. So please don't talk about a 'reserve hease don't talk about a reserve team'. What I may do is to field a slightly adjusted team so that I have an opportunity of watching some of the squad members who haven't seen a lot of action so far this year. But, having said all that, I'm very worried at the moment because I've just had to cancel a training camp because nine of the players were injured. I'm hoping that they'll be fit again by the 26th. SHOOT: You talk about a fixed squad — this is a new venture for you, isn't it? After all, you used more than 130 different players

over ten years.

KUBALA: You're right. This is a new policy because, for the first ime, we have a full programme of

HEN the Spanish national team took the field against East Germany in Malaga last month, Europe's longest-serving managers were sitting on the benches. German boss Georg Buschner holds the record, but Spanish supremo Ladislao Kubala is the managerial 'grandad' on this side of the Iron Curtain after nearly 11 years in charge of the national team. His record reads a fairly impressive 31 wins 18 draws and 13 defeats in 62 matches. But, with Spain managing just one win against Cyprus in the whole of 1979, many people feel that the 53-year-old Hungarian-born manager has outstayed his welcome.

friendly matches lined up, and this allows me to get a settled squad together on a regular basis. Remember that your British national teams have a lot of fixtures every year, whereas Spain have played very few games per year. Our captain Asensi, for example, has been playing international

only 38 caps. Playing so few games every year meant that it was pointless trying to build a settled team, and my policy was to select a side according to the opponents and the players in-form at that particular moment. This is the first chance I've had to build a team in the true sense of the word.

Spain (dark shirts) disappointed in the 1978 World Cup, and are looking to do better in the forthcoming European Championships.



Spain to beat England in Bar celona?

celonar
KUBALA: Well, as it's a friendly
match, the result isn't terribly
important. Psychologically we
definitely need to win. We played well against Holland in January and won 1-0, but our other results have been disappointing. So the morale of the squad needs a boost. We'll be playing to win, and a defeat would be a big disappoint-

SHOOT: But Spain don't score

many goals.

KUBALA: That's one of our major problems. We don't concede many either, and the defence is generally pretty watertight. I've got a lot of good defenders to choose from, and there are no problems there. We have some work to do on our midfield, and at the moment we lack imagination and attacking mentality. We have talented strikers, like Juanito and Carrasco, but most of the specialist goalscorers in the Spanish League are imported, and I have very few youngsters to choose from.

SHOOT: What about the England

team? You saw them in action against the Republic of Ireland. What was your impression?

KUBALA: I was very impressed. England are a soccer power again. I'm not telling you anything new by saying that Keegan is pheno-menal — he's the soul of the team. I also liked the defenders Cherry and Thompson, but really they're a solid all-round team. They play simple, attractive football, and I believe some of the youngsters in my squad can learn a lot from playing against England.

SHOOT: Looking ahead to the

next meeting between the two countries in Italy, I remember that when the draw was made you immediately commented "No when the draw was made you immediately commented "No problem. We'll beat England and Belgium and draw with Italy." Do you still stand by this prediction? **KUBALA: I don't remember mak**ing such a rash prediction. I keep insisting that the Spanish team must travel to Italy with modesty and humility, and basically we're pleased to have qualified among the top eight nations in Europe. Having said that, we're not going to be easy prey to anybody in the Finals and you know, to tell you the truth, player for player we're technically superior to the players in the England team, and I'd say we also beat them on improvisation. Physically we're inferior and in terms of team effort we're inferior. This match is very important because the young players will be able to see exactly what aspects of their game and their preparations they must improve. The youngsters in the squad now are the basis of our 1982 World Cup team, and I regard this match against England as a very important part of our longterm preparation programme. And, of course, if we win it'll give us a nice psychological advantage when the two countries meet again in June.

> Interview by Graham Turner.

SEND YOUR QUESTIONS TO

SHOOT!, IPC Magazines Ltd., King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London, SE1 9LS.

Hamburg record

Now that Kevin Keegan is coming back to English football, I'd like to know his record of League games and goals before he left for Hamburg?

RICHARD QUILL, SUTTON COLDFIELD

He kicked-off, Richard, with 18 goals in 124 League games for Scunthorpe before moving to Liverpool in May,

At Anfield, he got another 68 goals in 230 League games before going to West Germany in June, 1977.

Kevin, of course, also scored quite a few important goals in other competitions — not to mention picking up numerous medals and honours.

Chelsea team

As an ardent Chelsea supporter, I'd like to know our line-up when we beat Leeds in the 1970 F.A. Cup Final?

R. QUIGLEY, BALLYMENA

As you'll know, Chelsea played a 2-2 draw at Wembley before winning 2-1 in the replay at Old Trafford.

the replay at Old Trafford.

Chelsea used the same team in each game, and it was:— Peter Bonetti, Ron Harris, Eddie McCreadie, John Hollins, John Dempsey, Dave Webb, Tommy Baldwin, Charlie Cooke, Peter Osgood, Ian Hutchinson, and Peter Houseman.
Each time, Marvin Hinton came on as sub— for Harris at Wembley; and for Osgood at Old Trafford.

Pond pitch

Is it true that Blackburn Rovers' pitch once had a pond in the middle?

ROBERT WORTHINGTON, PRESTON

© Certainly is, Robert — though, needless to say, it wasn't at their modern Ewood Park ground!

This was when they were formed in 1875 — 13 years before Rovers became one of the Football League's foundermembers — and their "ground" didn't really amount to much more than a rough field.

Still, it was a beginning — and those

Still, it was a beginning — and those tough old-time pioneers got over their little local difficulty by covering the pond with planks, and turf on top, before each game.

Different clubs

Which British player has changed clubs most during his career?

KOSI SINISA, YUGOSLAVIA

Sorry to say, Kosi, there just doesn't seem to be any reliable record over the

years.

But, amongst recent players, you'd probably have a job to find a more travelled player than Bobby Gould, who is now assistant to manager Geoff Hurst

at Chelsea.

Gould made his Football League debut for Coventry in the 1963-64 season, and was transferred to Arsenal in February, 1968.

After that, it was on to Wolves in June,

1970; to West Bromwich in September, 1971; to Bristol City in December, 1972; to West Ham in November, 1973; to Wolves again in December, 1975; to Bristol Rovers in October, 1977; and to Hereford, where he finished his playing-career, in September, 1978.

Youngest

Who was the youngest player ever to play in the Football League?

NAOMI TOIMATA, NEW ZEALAND

Geldard takes that Naomi. He was 15 years and 156 days old when he played for Bradford v. Millwall in a Second Division game on 16th September, 1929. Later he moved on to Everton, and played in four full internationals for

played in four full internationals for England.
There was also a 14-year-old school-boy named Cameron Buchanan who played for Wolves v. West Bromwich on 26th September, 1942 — but, as this was in Wartime, it doesn't count in the offi-cial records.



England's team which lost 2-3 to Sweden at Wembley in October, 1959 was: Hopkinson, Howe, Allen, Clayton (capt.), Smith, Flowers, Con-nelly, Greaves, Clough, Charlton, Holliday, (ANDERS MARTENSSON, Sweden)

 Cliff Jones gained 59 full caps for Wales between 1953-54 and 1969-70 the first 16 with Swansea; the last two with Fulham; and all the rest with Spurs.

(DUNCAN PROPHET, Bishops Stortford)

Liverpool's record League scorer in a single season is Roger Hunt — 41 goals in Div. Two in 1961-62.
 (MICHAEL DENWOOD,

Workington)

 World record crowd is 205,000 (199,854 paid) for the Brazil v Uruguay deciding match in the 1950 World Cup at the Maracana Stadium, Rio de Janeiro.

(ANDREW GREGORY, Bradford)

 Spurs were the first British club to win one of the modern major European competitions — beating Atletico Madrid 5-1 in the Cup-Winners' Cup Final in 1963.

(RICHARD HOWELLS, Newport)

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Joe McBride of Everton

MY dad played for Scotland, Celtic, Hibernian, Wolves and Luton, yet his advice to me was to concentrate on my education. I can see what dad meant but the only part of school I liked was when we had football!

Football could go tomorrow through a bad injury, but it's still the only life for me. Getting into the Everton first team at 19 has been like Cinderella going to the ball. I'm still stunned by it, running out of the tunnel to the roar of 30,000 fans, instead of to empty terraces.

I still have my perennial handicap, whichever team I play for. Lack of size. I'm a real 'wee lad' a bit frail. My dad is the same height, but he was stocky and good in the air. So people didn't



notice so much. When I run out tie against Fourth Division Wigan with the first team, I still look like Athletic, in front of 50,000 people. one of the youth team — or the For Wigan it was like going to mascot! I can eat like a horse, but! Wembley and they brought 20,000 don't get the horse's bulk, so it looks as if my encounters with First Division full-backs will still be David and Goliath affairs.

That's why Colin Harvey, a great coach with the reserves, works me so hard on the weights. There may not be much to show for it out-wardly, but I'm already beginning to feel stronger and that's what it's all about. But he's not concerned only with bulk. He's always stressing attitude. 'If the attitude is right, you'll make it, even as a little 'un.' You are the player you THINK you are if you're prepared to work at it.

I'll never forget my Everton debut because of its suddenness and the timing of it. I joined them as an apprentice three years ago last September after trials with Arsenal, Man. City, Man. United, three real breaths of the big time for a raw youngster from Celtic lads sides. I played in the A and B sides and only began to command a reserve team place after two years with the club.

Then, for the Christmas Eve match against Bolton, I was suddenly put in the first team instead of the reserves. There I was mixing it with men like Asa Hartford, Brian Kidd, Bob Latchford. If you only hit a half decent ball, those guys made it look marvellous. To put the icing on the cake, I scored what looked like being the winning goal. But it was not to be and Bolton took a point with the last kick of the game.

To add variety to my new experience, I was chosen for the F.A. Cup

fanatical supporters with them. I learned two more lessons that day, that there are no such things as easy matches and that I thrive on the atmosphere which a big crowd gives.

My most terrifying moment came after the Wigan match. It was being televised by Granada and they asked me to give them an interview. That was great. Then I found myself in the middle of the park, with all the players gone and somebody asking me questions and holding the microphone in front of me. I was terrified.

Actions

Now there were millions of 'hidden' spectators, not a 50,000 crowd, and I had to use words instead of letting my actions talk for me. I took a deep breath and hoped that I didn't sound ridiculous. Later, when it was televised, I was glad that there was only my landlord and landlady watching with me.

Everton have shown confidence in me and I've got to concentrate on repaying that confidence with good performances. I have a responsibility to help improve their League position. There's nothing wrong that time won't alter. There have been changes and problems, which come to all clubs some time or other. But that will pass. We stand a marvellous chance of reaching Wembley for the F.A. Cup Final, and I am sure we can bring the glory back to Goodison.



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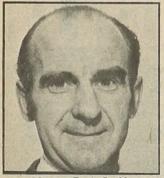
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Derrick McDicken (right) is a powerful figure in the Kilmarnock defence.

WHEN Kilmarnock came into start of the season the prophets of doom had a field day at their expense. They said the Rugby Park part-timers wouldn't be good enough . . . they would concede too many goals . . . they would go straight back down.

Things, however, haven't quite turned out like that. No striker thinks it is paradise to line up against Kilmarnock and there are three simple and straightforward reasons for that . . . Derrick McDicken, Kenny Armstrong and Paul Clarke.

Kilmarnock manager Sneddon has built his defence around this trio, and the combination of their powers plus the super goalkeeping of Alan McCulloch has transformed the Rugby Park side.



Manager Davie Sneddon.

McDICKEN is something of a hero to the Kilmarnock fans. He says: "I play my football to win. I'm effective rather than pretty to watch.

The fans here deserve the best, they are a great set of lads and really get behind the team to encourage us even when things aren't going too well.

"I give them a wave every now and again to let them know that the other players and myself appreciate their support. I suppose I've got quite a good understanding with our fans and I just hope it stavs that way!

ARMSTRONG is the new boy in the threesome, but already he has settled into the defence and shows little trace of nerves. Rangers manager John Greig can be counted among those who have been greatly impressed by youngster.



could lead to trouble for his team.

"I've got my orders from Mr Sneddon and I stick to them," he says. "He has shown faith in bringing me into his first team plans this season and I am trying my best to

CLARKE completes the hat-trick of formidable defenders and, like his partners, he is an uncompromising figure in the middle of

the rearguard.
"I suppose a lot of people expected us to be on the receiving end of several thrashings this sea-son," he says, "but we never lost confidence in our ability. We might be part-time, but we are as fit as any other team in this Division."

Atrocious

Part-time Kilmarnock certainly proved that when they defeated Champions Celtic 2-0 at Rugby Park this season. It was a hectic afternoon for their players in atrocious, stamina-sapping conditions.

The boys played really well that day," says 'keeper McCulloch. was important that we beat Celtic for they were the only club to wallop us in our other games.

They had taken five goals off us when we played them at Parkhead and it could have been the begin-ning of the end for us. We had to show everyone that we were a better team than that scoreline suggested.

Few people gave us any chance in the second game, but we kept going and, in the end, just about everyone agreed we deserved our victory. It was good to get those points because it meant we had completed a 'double' over the Old Firm at Rugby Park in one season.

'We had beaten Rangers 2-1 earlier in the season and those are good scalps to have hanging from your belt.

There seems little doubt that Kilmarnock will continue to pick up very creditable victories.

SCOTLAND v PORTUGAL (Hampden Park, March 26th)

SCOTLAND'S countdown to a World Cup place in Spain in 1982 starts on Wednesday (March 26) with a meaningless European Championship match against Portugal at Hampden.

Jock Stein is viewing this game with great importance and says: "We must find a blend and a pat-tern and this will be an interesting match.

"Portugal are in our World Cup qualifying section, so although this game really means nothing as far as the European Championship is concerned, it means an awful lot in other terms.

"We'll both be finding out things about each other at Hampden. The

main thing for us, though, is to start putting our game together."

Scotland haven't had a happy time of it recently in the international arena and two instantly forgettable performances against Belgium — losing 2-0 away and 3-1 though, they have struggled at the highest level. They aim to rectify that situation and reach Spain and they want to make sure Scotland do not stand in their way.

Portugal miss the likes of the great Eusebio, Coluna, Torres and others, but they still have quality players such as attacking defender Alberto and Alves, so unlucky with injuries, who controls their midfield.

Like Scotland, though, they have also found great difficulty in find-ing a consistent performer in goal. Benfica's Bento played against the Scots in Lisbon and he was a jittery, nervous figure throughout the game as high balls dropped down on top of him.

If he plays at Hampden and performs in the same unusual manner it could turn out to be a joy night for the Scottish attack.

The performance is obviously a lot more important to Scotland than the result, but Stein is keenly aware that a landslide victory would work wonders with the con-

Scotland's forgotten game is World Cup preview

from scratch in this match against the Portuguese.

It will be intriguing to see what Stein has in mind. He is defi-nitely looking to the future and there is the possibility that West Ham's exciting Ray Stewart could figure in his plans, but so, too, could that marvellous Birmingham City bundle of energy Archie Gem-mill, who is in the veteran stage, but still has a lot to offer.

Scotland, of course, have some outstanding young individuals, but they haven't been knitting together in the overall team blend Stein is seeking and Gemmill might be the man to hold the side together.

Exciting

Stewart might get his opportunity at right-back and Aberdeen's exciting raider Stevie Archibald might win his first full cap against the Portuguese, who beat Scot-land 1-0 in Lisbon in their other European tie.

Archibald has matured superbly this season and has accepted responsibility like a veteran. His goal power and potential could go a long way to solving Scotland's problem of not being able to capitalise on some fine outfield

The Portuguese, too, are taking this game very seriously although their European ambitions, like Scotland's, were buried quite a while ago.

They haven't made the final stages of the World Cup since 1966 in England when they eventually took third place. Since then,



JOCK STEIN

fidence of his players.

It's a mystery why players such as Kenny Dalglish, John Robertson, Graeme Souness, George Burley, Alan Hansen, Eamonn Bannon, Derek Johnstone, to name just a few, do not always hit it off in the dark blue of their country.

As Stein wisely points out, a blend MUST be found. That will lay the foundation for the future and give these players a better chance to evolve a pattern.

The first bricks could be laid on Wednesday. This really is the start of a new era because Scotland are beginning all over again. The mistakes of the past will remain there. Stein wants a new spirit, a fresh enthusiasm to sweep through his team and a good display against Portugal would certainly go a long way to putting Scotland back on the right tracks.

The crowds may not be at Hampden, but the spirit certainly

Send your letters to STEVE CARTER, GOAL-LINES, SHOOT! IPC Magazines Ltd., King's Reach Tower, Stamford St., London SE1 9LS. U.K. readers receive £5 for the Star Letter — £2 for every other letter published. Overseas readers receive a special SHOOT T-shirt. Please state which size: small, medium or large. When writing to us please mention the two features you liked best in the latest issue of SHOOT!

All letters must be exclusive to SHOOT!

This week's Star Letter comes from Stephen Murray of Blackburn, who wins are Special Prize of £5. He writes:

DISTURBING TREND

I would like to comment on the disturbing attendances in the First Division. True, the big city clubs such as Liverpool, Manchester United and Arsenal can com-mand gates of 30,000 or 40,000 week in, week out — but who can come near this for support? Nobody bats an eyelid when there are several First Division gates below 20,000.

On 23rd February, no fewer than eight of the 11 First Division matches were watched by less than 30,000 people — and four of these by less than 20,000. Even the big Midlands derby between West Bromwich Albion and Aston Villa could only attract 33,000 people.

I am tired of being constantly reminded by the older generation saying: "We got those sort of gates for reserve matches!"

Why are attendances so alarmingly low? Is football really a dying sport, as some people would have us believe?

 This is the time of year when some clubs' gates tumble because they aren't involved in the Championship, relegation or Cup. Half a million fans turn out regularly each Saturday, but I've said all along that poor facilities and the threat of hooliganism puts many would-be supporters off.

Soccer divers

HERE has been a vast amount of publicity on the subject of 'diving' in the penalty-area once a player has come into contact with an attacker. Players such as Kenny Dalglish (below) have come under the spotlight on television and I feel this is unfair. He has been branded a 'diver' and referees will be wary each time he enters the 18



yard box of him looking for a penalty.

More recently, the attention has been focussed on Osvaldo Ardiles. It was suggested on television that the Argentinian 'dived' in the F.A. Cup-tie at White Hart Lane after colliding with the Birmingham defender Kevan Broadhurst when Spurs were awarded a penalty. I was behind the goal watching the match and saw a deliberate kick by the young defender. Television coverage did not show this and Ardiles appeared to be deceiving the referee.

The point is, television should not be used for judging if players' intentions are honourable.

FRANK GORDON, LEYTON.

I'm all for offenders to be shown up. The problem is, television sometimes doesn't prove something one way or the other, and people tend to think the worst of the player involved. Players com-plain about being "marked men" but such a reputation is earnt after marking another player!

Cheaper Scotland

WiTH Scotland's loyal fans being told not to travel to Belfast for the Northern Ireland game and that there is a Wembley ticket ban, I would have thought the S.F.A. hierarchy could have at least lowered the admission money for the Portugal game had it gone ahead in February, or the re-arranged date, March 26th.

Although the game was mean-ingless, with Scotland out of the European Championship, it would have been a nice gesture by the S.F.A. as a thank-you to their thousands of decent fans who follow them everywhere (myself included). After all, the way Scotland have been playing lately, they need all the support they can get!

So, in conclusion, the message from the S.F.A. to the Scottish fans - Don't travel to any away games, but keep coming to Hamp-den to pay top prices, walk through muddy approaches, stand on dirty ash terracing, and use primitive toilets!

I think it's time the decent Scottish fans deserved a better deal. STUART DANIELS, GLASGOW.

 The Tartan Army is so loyal it would put up with anything. There are plans to modernise Hampden, and not before time, either.

Pen-pal

'M a 14-year-old boy and I'd like pen pals in England and Scotland to exchange souvenirs

ERICK VAN DEN POLDER, VROESENLAAN 14c, 3039 DT ROTTERDAM, HOLLAND.

HERE could be pain in Spain for England when we play their team in the friendly next week in Bar-celona, for it's no secret Spanish football has a "physical" bias. My international team-mate,

My international team-mate, Laurie Cunningham, now playing for Real Madrid, confirmed this fact to me after England's game against the Republic of Ireland. It's not that the Spaniards are vicious; they are simply more clumsy in their tackles and tend to mistime them.

At home in Britain, our defenders are much more skilful and in my view are the best in the world at

tackling. This friendly, marvellous prepara-tion for our match in Italy in June in the European Championship Group Two, was arranged before the actual draw was made.

Favourites Italy are the most for-midable obstacle in our quest to win the Championship for the first time in England's history, but Spain and the fourth team in the Group,

Belgium, are only a fraction behind. Although Spain do not score many goals, they also have a reputation for conceding few, mainly because of the rigid man-to-man marking system they use in com-mon with most Continental countries.

Those of us whose clubs appear

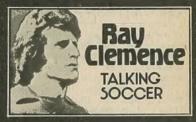
defender week in, week out. The match venue is the Nou Camp, the magnificent home of Barcelona, which ranks among the best stadiums in the world. It's an nest stadiums in the world. It's an awe-inspiring place, as I know from my visit here with Liverpool in the first-leg of the U.E.F.A. Cup Semi-Finals in 1976, and is equipped with just about every conceivable facility for fans and players.

There's even a small chapel at one side of the long tunnel leading from the dressing-rooms to the pitch, where players can pray before a

game!

I've fond memories of the stadium. What a tremendous night for Liverpool when we beat Barcelona — Johan Cruyff and all — by a John Toshack goal. It eventually won the tie as the Spanish club held us to a 1-1 draw in the return-leg at Anfield.

The pitch is like a bowling green,



regularly in European club competitions are accustomed to playing against such inflexible defences, but for some England players it's a

rare experience. We're fortunate in having in our squad Laurie Cunningham, Kevin Keegan and Tony Woodcock, who are used to being policed by a far superior to Wembley.

The Forest players are the ones with the more recent experience of playing on it, beating Barcelona and winning the Super Cup to confirm their title of European Club Champions on the night England played the Republic of Ireland at Wembley. As regular readers of the column





will know, I expected to stand down in favour of Peter Shilton against Eire, following Ron Greenwood's policy of alternating us in games before June.

Even when I learnt that Peter was needed for club duty against Bar-celona, I fully expected Manchester City's Joe Corrigan to be handed the number one shirt.

good preparation for meeting the cautious Spaniards.

It annoyed me when I read criticisms of the two goals Kevin Keegan scored to give us victory. The first, from six yards out, was by no means the simple tap-in some writers claimed.

He initiated the move which resulted in Dave Johnson heading

'Brighton will be harder to beat than at the Goldstone Ground'

made a chip-shot — and I know he doesn't tell lies!

Although England are too wellbalanced to be a one-man team, Kev can take a lot of the credit for our qualification for the Finals in Rome.

Personally, I think he's wasted in midfield, and would be better employed as a striker. Against the Republic he spent so much of the game buzzing around concentrat-ing on attack, that Bryan Robson was forced to restrict himself to playing a very disciplined game as a ball-winner.

Perhaps in future we'll be using a four-man midfield with Kev as a sort of spearhead there.

Kev's contract with Hamburger SV guarantees his release for games in international competitions, but it's certain he'll be in Spain — and probably will play in our other friendly, against World Champions Argentina, at Wembley in May. Unfortunately, he'll be out of the British Championship at the end of the season because his West German club will need his services.

Apart from his influence on the field, Kev is such a lively, fun-loving character off it he has helped to create the tremendous cameraderie in the England camp, an essential ingredient in any team hungry for success.

Everyone now looks forward to being selected for the squad, and you can really believe it when someone has to drop out through injury.

I won't know whether Peter or I will be picked to play against Spain until the day before the game. I'm certain, though, it will be our strongest team. The game is a dress rehearsal for our deadly serious date later in Naples.

A good result over the Spaniards on their home soil will give us a psychological advantage.

We report for duty on the Sunday following League games on the Saturday.

Those of us from Liverpool will have played Brighton at Anfield and I hope we'll be celebrating having gained another two points towards a Championship-winning total.

If we do, I'm sure it will be a much harder game than The Seagulls gave us at the Goldstone Ground earlier this season when they looked relegation candidates as we beat them comfortably by 4-1.

Improved

Since then they have improved tremendously, taking many coveted scalps, including that of Forest. Brighton's 1-0 win at the City Ground rates as one of the major backs of the season. shocks of the season.

Brighton have been strengthened by the purchase of Ray Clarke from Bruges, who has combined well with Peter Ward to form a consistent goalscoring partnership. And in Mark Lawrenson, who was out-standing for the Republic against England, they have a player of true world class.

Their manager Alan Mullery, I'm sure, will impress on his players many of whom have never set foot on the Anfield pitch before — the

Otherwise, our manager continued to experiment in order to ensure that when in Italy we'll have experienced players who can be drafted in as replacements if ever first-choice men become unavailable through injury, sickness, or drastic loss of form.

There were several new faces on parade against the Republic, includ-ing Bryan Robson of West Brom. My Liverpool team-mate, Dave John-son, was recalled after a gap of four

The game was not the exciting spectacle many people, including me, had forecast, mainly because the Irish concentrated on defence. With no chance of qualifying, I fully expected Johnny Giles' men to throw caution to the winds and bombard our goal. Instead, I had a quiet night.

I felt sorry for Frank Stapleton who for most of the game fought a one-man battle up-front and would have posed problems if he'd had any support.

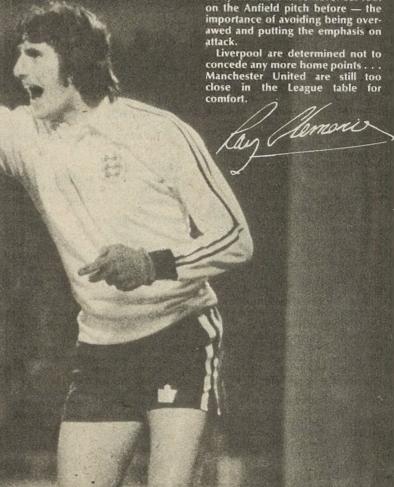
But playing the defensively-minded Irish, amongst whom were players well versed in the strengths and weaknesses of England players they either play with or against re-gularly in the League, was perhaps down from the far post. It was a 50/50 ball between Kevin and an Irish defender, but Kev was so quick off the mark he turned the odds into 60/40 in his favour, got to the ball first and placed it well clear

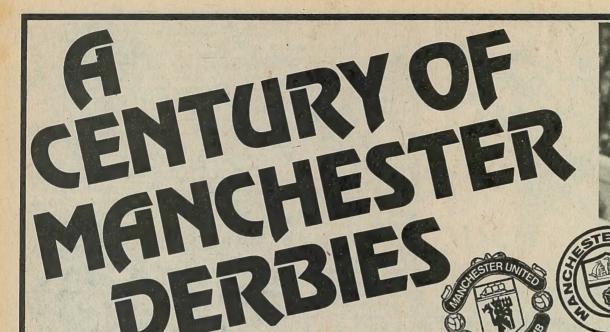
of 'keeper Gerry Peyton. Kev's second goal was well worth the entrance money for England supporters. There was only one element of luck in it — when he and Liam Brady went for a high ball and it hit his thigh and fell perfectly into

his path. From that moment on Kev was in complete control, beat several detenders on the run, saw the 'keeper coming off his line and chipped the ball over his head into

the goal. Critics have maintained that a more experienced 'keeper than substitute Ron Healey from Cardiff would have made a save. But Ron did exactly the right thing by advancing to reduce Kevin's

Kev said in the dressing-room afterwards that he had deliberately





EVERYTHING points to a Manchester United victory over Manchester City in the 100th League battle between the two Northern giants, at Old Trafford, on March 22nd.

Dave Sexton's United are pressing Liverpool hard for the title; Tony Book's City are struggling to avoid the trapdoor leading to the Second Division.

Yet to dismiss the result as a walk-over for the Championship chasing Reds is to ignore the capacity of this derby fixture for producing an upset.

Manchester United led Liverpool at the top of the table with City in 14th place when the two clubs clashed in the League at Maine Road on Saturday, November 10th. What happened? Goals from Tony Henry and Michael Robinson swept Manchester City to a shock 2-0 victory.

But only the weak and uncertain sit on the fence in times of major sporting events. United's advantage is that they have a settled team bubbling with enthusiasm in their quest for the League title, whilst Malcolm Allison, City's chief coach, has been forced to chop and change his side.

Our big match calculation gives United's players 81 points out of a maximum 110. City score 75. United have lost only one League game at Old Trafford this season; City have won only three League games away.

The forecast is based on an analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the line-ups this season.

SHOOT predicts this scoreline at 4.40 p.m., on Saturday: MAN. UNITED 1, MAN. CITY 0.

BIG MATCH ANALYSIS

Manchester derby rating chart

GARY BAILEY (8)

JOE CORRIGAN (7)
Bailey's advantage over Corrigan is that he plays behind a sound defence. Bailey had let in only four League goals at home by March 1st. Thirty-four had flashed into City's net away from home.

JIMMY NICHOLL (5)

RAY RANSON (7)

No contest. Nicholl suffers terrible lapses of concentration and control which cost United dearly. England Under-21 player Ranson improves with every game and will not be overawed.

GORDON McQUEEN (9) TOMMY CATON (7) The "master" and the "pupil". McQueen has done it all — and well. Caton, understandably, has much to learn in his first full season. Experience wins, hands down.

MARTIN BUCHAN (8)

TOMMY BOOTH (7)

For unflustered Bobby Moore-type control and leadership, Buchan has few peers. Booth's disadvantage is the shortage of experience around him.

STEWART HOUSTON (5)

Both are past their best but Scottish international Donachie, the subject of transfer speculation, edges this one. He works well with Ranson

RAY WILKINS (8)

TONY HENRY (6)
Wilkins admits his United debut "went on around me". Now, he
pulls the strings. If Ray ticks, United buzz. Henry, a product of City's
nursery, sparks brightly in a somewhat unpredictable midfield.

SAMMY McILROY (7)

Whilst McIlroy's consistency impresses, Daley's contribution has been erratic since his £1.4 million transfer, but he's desperate to impress Allison and could use this derby as a platform.

MICKEY THOMAS (7)

"Legs" Thomas has robot energy and thrust. Power, too, is athletic, harnessing style and guile to his physical attributes.

STEVE COPPELL (8)

Coppell is not at his best this season but wallows in big games. Tueart, desperate to reveal that his touchline talents are unimpaired, could roast whichever full-back he decides to attack. But will he get the ball? Coppell's the more likely scorer though.

JOE JORDAN (8)

MICHAEL ROBINSON (7)
The "old head" and the "rookie". Jordan's power gives defenders nightmares. Robinson, who suffers from poor service, will get no change out of McQueen.

Reeves will relish his first derby battle but Macari's big match temperament could give him the edge. Reeves will clearly strengthen City's attack and chance of victory.

CROSSTALK

Buchan (left) and

for the ball in the Manchester darby four months ago.

LEGENDARY football giants, Matt Busby and Joe Mercer, who have done so much to shape the destinies of United and City, are brought together by SHOOT for an exclusive Crosstalk on the eve of the big match.

BUSBY: Joe, we've met on some big occasions but this has to be the

biggest.
MERCER: They always say the
Manchester derby is the best in the
country and this one is even more
special than usual.

BUSBY: Will you be forsaking your beloved Coventry to come and see us?

MERCER: Oh, yes, Matt. I'll have one ear out for what's happening at Leeds where Coventry are playing, but I can't really miss out on a day like that at Old Trafford.

BUSBY: You'd think there had been more than 100 League derbies in Manchester, but I suppose when you think that we both had bad times when we went down to the Second Division, and of the years when we were playing real Wars instead of having battles on the football pitch, it's perhaps not so surprising.

MERCER: I must admit I was surprised it was the 100th derby.

BUSBY: I still tremble at the thought of my first derby, and, of course, I've seen them from both sides having played for both City and United.

MERCER: Yes, and having managed United as well that must make you unique.
BUSBY: Well that's one way of

putting it. There are certainly a lot of memories, and I go back to 1932 when I first came down from Scotland. I played right-half for City at Old Trafford at a time when



'I HATED THESE GAMES'

PLAYED in as many derby matches as anyone — and I hated every single one!

For me there's no way you can enjoy a derby game. So much depends on the result, there's so much tension that the game of football is stifled to death.

It's hard to describe unless you've actually played in one of these matches, indeed I didn't realise myself just how important they were, until I played in my very first derby game for Manchester City against United.

The atmosphere was unbelievable to me. My knees felt like jelly when we went out, but as usual once the game started I was all right and I managed to get an early goal.

It was 2-2, and then the heavens opened — appropriate I thought for Manchester — it started thundering and lightning and the match was abandoned.

That was quite an introduction to derby games, and in fact when the match was played again at Maine Road we got beaten 3-1, as well as

being thrashed 5-1 at Old Trafford.
The strange thing about derby
games is that you never forget
them. I must have played against

-Denis Law

most teams in the First Division a couple of dozen times, but I can recall very few of them in detail whereas I can remember just about every derby match.

Obviously there are certain matches that stand out like beacons, and one of those was the 1968 derby near the end of the season. We knew if we won at Old Trafford we would be the Champions, and everything started perfectly because we took an early lead.

Then City started to turn it on, and they needed the points just as badly because they were lying about fourth at the time. They eventually beat us 3-1 and they went on to win the League.

The most memorable goal I ever scored was without question my last, in fact it turned out to be my last kick in League football - and it sent United down to the Second Division!

It was in 1974 and I was back with City. All I really remember about the goal itself is that the ball was cut back from the by-line and instinctively I back-heeled it. Alex



Stepney was going one way and the ball went the other and ended up in the net.

It was a complete fluke and I just felt numb when I realised what I had done - I had sent my precious old club Manchester United down to the Second Division!

I'm glad to say United came back with a flourish and that this 100th derby game means as much as any

of the previous 99.

I couldn't possibly predict what's going to happen this time, because even if one team were top of the First Division and the other team bottom, that would have no bearing whatsoever on the result. Form counts for nothing, and whoever wins on Saturday will have the rest of the season made, for the losers there's only the next time to look forward to.

Mercer—"It's only the fans who get all steamed-up."



United were going through a bad time. We won the match 3-1 but what I remember most is coming off with a badly disjointed knee that put me out for some time.

MERCER: Don't talk to me about badly disjointed knees. Mine aren't good now but they positively buckled the day I played my first derby. This was on Merseyside for Everton against Liverpool --- which is much the same as the

Manchester game — more about passion and pride than it is about the game

BUSBY: That's right you don't often get good football in derbies because everyone is so keyed up. It's a game for the fans more than

MERCER: What I remember about my first derby, Matt, is the journey to the ground that day. I lived at Ellesmere Port and I

Busby-"I hope the 100th match is played in the right spirit."



caught the 12 o'clock bus to the ground. It was full of supporters from both sides. There was some good natured banter and then we all hopped on the ferry, the underground and finally the tram to take us to Scotland Road and Spiller Road. It seems unthinkable these days that any of the players would travel to a match with the supporters on public transport.

BUSBY: It probably helped to dispel pre-match nerves because you'd be so pre-occupied in chat and replying to the cracks that it would take your mind off the actual match.

MERCER: I was always nervous before matches, but as soon as we kicked off I knew I'd be all right. We had Dixie Dean at centre-forward and Liverpool had Elisha Scott in goal. It was a fantastic match and although Dixie

scored first we got beaten 7-4, I think it was

BUSBY: We'll be lucky to get that many goals this year Joe. MERCER: That's right, I know

when I was managing City I used to try and play it down in the dressing room beforehand. We had experienced players like Mike Summerbee, Frannie Lee, Mick Doyle and so on, and they could handle the big match atmosphere, but if we had a new kid in the team we used to try and get him into the frame of mind that it was just another match and he had to go

out and play his normal game. BUSBY: Yes experience counts for a great deal in these games and you could tell in the dressing room before which players might react in the wrong way. The trouble is that everyone in the city is talking about the game for weeks beforehand, and you could be relegated, but provided you beat the "enemy" in the derby that's all

MERCER: You can remember derbies for years to come.

BUSBY: That's absolutely right, Joe, the one that stands out in my mind was the meeting in 1956-7 season. This was our pre-Munich team at its best with Tommy Taylor, Duncan Edwards, Dennis Viollet and the rest at their peak. When we met City we paralysed them in the first half but Bert Trautmann was brilliant, and then to our disbelief they broke away and scored just before half-time. In the second half they were as good as we had been in the first 45 minutes, but they put their chances away and beat us 5-0.

MERCER: I'll bet you weren't too popular that week, Matt, but there must have been plenty of good times as well. The match I always recall during my time as City

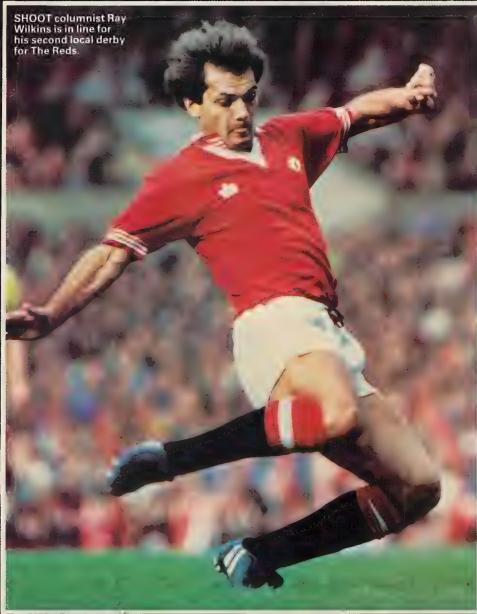
manager was the one when dear old Tony Book had to take a penalty with 30 seconds to go with the score one-apiece. He actually made it reach their 'keeper on the third bounce, and I'm sure it was just the tension of having to take such an important kick in a match like that. Against any other team in the League he'd have tucked it away, or at least made a decent stab at it.

BUSBY: Yes the funny thing about the derby is that League positions are almost totally unimportant. I recall the 1962-3 season when we won the Cup but couldn't do anything right in the League. We were hanging on for First Division survival near the end of the season but we still managed to beat City thanks to an Albert Quixall penalty.

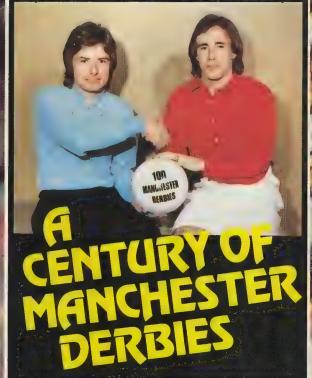
MERCER: There have been a few penalties down the years, Matt, most of them caused by the tension of the occasion, but I can honestly say that most of the players are good friends off the park. Whatever the result is on Saturday, the players will still enjoy a drink together after the match. It's only the fans who get really steamed up. You're bound to get one or two personal niggles, but generally the atmosphere between the lads is very good.

BUSBY: That's right and I hope this 100th match is played in the right spirit — and that United win of course.

MERCER: Well I agree with you, Matt, certainly on the first point, and despite what you say about League positions counting for little on derby day, I can't really see City upsetting your celebrations at Old Trafford this time. If I know Malcolm Allison he'll be planning something special, but I reckon United should get the points.











A CENTURY OF MANCHESTER DERBIES

THERE have been countless memorable moments in the 99 League clashes between Manchester rivals United and City, but one game in particular stands out in the controversy stakes.

Of all the 98 and 17/18th League games played between Manches-ter United and Manchester City to date undoubtedly that unfinished one was the most dramatic. It happened at Old Trafford on 27th April 1974 when, in the 85th minute, the only goal of the game was scored to send United down to the Second Division for the first time since

The crowd invaded the pitch, forcing referee David Smith to abandon the game.

But the ploy didn't work. As United supporters were the offending party, the authorities allowed the 85-minute score to



United 1957-58

stand as the final result.

And, ironically and melodramatically, the scorer was none other than the former idolised "King of Old Trafford", Denis Law, who'd been allowed to move across Manchester a few months earlier to finish out his long and dis-tinguished career with rivals City.

Now, as the two rivals approach their 100th League derby, by con-trast it's United who've been up in the clouds this season, with City in the doldrums.



City 1951-52

Not, though, that current League positions automatically m everything in clashes like this.

As United's Martin Buchan puts it: "Past results, even present form, mean little in this sort of contest. Each game is different. What happens on the day is all that matters.

"Only one thing is certain. The tension will be tremendous — and, like as not, it will be close."

Martin's right. Exactly a third of all the games have ended all-

square - 33 draws in 99 his club only lead 36 to 30 in outright wins.

Although both clubs came into the Football League in the same year of 1892, and have been irrevocably linked ever since, they've only rarely met in the transfer market.

The great Billy Meredith - who started with City in 1894; moved to United in 1906; and then back to City in 1921 to finish his career — is one example from a bygone era. But, since the last War, direct

moves between the two have been almost non-existent. Brian Kidd has played for both, though, with a spell at Arsenal inbetween.

There have been only two big-name moves between the two in the past quarter of a century or so.

One was Scottish superstar Denis Law, and the other, Welsh international Wyn Davies in 1972.

As 50,000-plus fans at Old Trafford will discover on Saturday, it's not just two points, but Manchester pride, which is at stake.



Sexton — 'Attitude is right for a top of the table team."

WHEN Manchester City beat old rivals United 2-0 at Maine Road last November, they may not have done themselves as big a favour as they thought. From that day on City have

struggled desperately to claim anything from a most forgettable season, while United have gritted their teeth and stuck manfully to the task of trying to make Liverpool sweat for the title.

United manager Dave Sexton admits that the setback at Maine Road hardened his team's resolve to roll up their sleeves and battle for every point.

I know people have said that we're not capable of sustaining a challenge to Liverpool for the Championship but we aren't doing too badly for supposed also-rans.

The whole of the staff at Old Trafford believes that we can win the title. At no stage have I felt that Liverpool have got far enough away from us to have it sewn up.

"We really didn't perform very well at Maine Road. There were a couple of chances early on in that game that, if taken, could have changed the course of the match, but as it turned out they took two of the few opportunities that came their way and beat us deservedly. We had no complaints but we did say afterwards that we ought to have done better and from that moment on, our attitude has been absolutely right for a team involved at the top of the table." Across the city Malcolm

Allison, not surprisingly, sees things differently.

"When we beat United we were going quite well really. We'd just won at Leeds and beaten Nottingham Forest at Maine Road, so our confidence was sky high.

Since then we've had a variety of problems. Steve Daley hasn't performed as well as he should have done, and certainly not as well as we hoped he would for a million-and-a-half pound player. Others like Deyna, who played superbly that day, and Robinson haven't lived up to expectations, and we've rarely fielded the same team two weeks running.
"Perhaps the win over United

went to our heads a little. We thought we were better than we

Allison -"We could complete a derby double over United."



were, and, of course, this result means more to the fans, if not the players, than any other result in the entire season.

"I seriously believe we could complete a derby double over United though because we need the points as much as they do.

The onus will be on United to come out and attack us and we're often at our best on the break so everything could suit our style.

Both Sexton and Allison are aware that the 100th League meeting should provide a showpiece that will be a talking point for years. The trouble is so much more than usual hinges on the result — United for the Championship, City for the drop in addition to the normal pride and prestige, that no one is going to be giving much away.

** These are the results in Football League games between the Manchester clubs since 1894.

| 3.11.94 | City | 2 | Newton | | 16. 1.54 | United | 1 | City | 1 |
|-----------|----------|---|--------|-----|-----------|----------|-------|-----------|-------|
| 5. 1.95 | Newton H | | City | 1 | 25. 9.54 | City | 3 | United | 2 |
| 5.10.95 | Newton H | 1 | City | 1. | 12. 2.55 | United | 0 | City | 5 |
| 7.12.95 | City | 2 | Newton | H 1 | 3. 9.55 | City | 1 | United | 0 |
| 3.10.96 | City | 0 | Newton | H O | 31.12.55 | United | 2 | City | 1 |
| 25-12-96 | Newton H | 2 | City | 1 | 22. 9.56 | United | 2 | City | 0 |
| 16.10.97 | Newton H | | City | 1 | 2. 2.57 | City | 2 | United | 4 |
| 25.12.97 | City | ò | Newton | | 31. 8.57 | United | 4 | City | 1 |
| 10. 9.98 | Newton H | _ | City | Ö | 28.12.57 | City | 2 | United | 2 |
| 26.12.98 | City | 4 | Newton | | 27. 9.58 | | 1 | | |
| 25.12.02 | United | i | City | 1 | | City | | United | 1 |
| 10. 4.03 | | ó | | 2 | 14. 2.59 | United | 4 | City | 1 |
| | City | | United | | 19. 9.59 | City | 3 | United | 0 |
| 1.12.06 | City | 3 | United | 0 | 6. 2.60 | United | 0 | City | 0 |
| 6. 4.07 | United | 1 | City | 1 | 3.12.60 | United | 5 | City | 1 |
| 21.12.07 | United | 3 | City | 1 | 4. 3.61 | City | 1 | United | 3 |
| 18. 4.08 | City | 0 | United | 0 | 23. 9.61 | United | 3 | City | 2 |
| 19. 9.08 | City | 1 | United | 2 | 10. 2.62 | City | 0 | United | 2 |
| 23 1.09 | United | 3 | City | 1 | 15. 9.62 | United | 2 | City | 3 |
| 17. 9.10 | United | 2 | City | 1 | 15. 5.63 | City | 1 | United | 1 |
| 21. 1.11 | City | 1 | United | 1 | 17. 9.66 | United | 1 | City | 0 |
| 2. 9.11 | City | 0 | United | 0 | 21. 1.67 | City | 1 | United | 1 |
| 30.12.11 | United | Õ | City | Ö | 30. 9.67 | City | i | United | 2 |
| 7. 9.12 | United | Ö | City | 1 | 27. 3.68 | United | i | City | 3 |
| 28.12.12 | City | Ö | United | 2 | 17. 8.68 | City | ò | United | ő |
| 6.12.13 | City | ŏ | United | 2 | 8. 3.69 | | 0 | | 1 |
| 11. 4.14 | United | Ö | City | 1 | | United | _ | City | |
| 5. 9.14 | United | Ö | | | 15.11.69 | City | 4 | United | 0 |
| | | 1 | City | 0 | 28. 3.70 | United | 1 | City | 2 |
| 2. 1.15 | City | | United | 1 | 12.12.70 | United | 1 | City | 4 |
| 11.10.19 | City | 3 | United | 3 | 5. 5.71 | City | 3 | United | 4 |
| 18.10.19 | United | 1 | City | 0 | 6.11.71 | City | 3 | United | 3 |
| 20.11.20 | United | 1 | City | 1 | 12. 4.72 | United | 1 | City | 3 |
| 27.11.20 | City | 3 | United | 0 | 18.11.72 | City | 3 | United | 0 |
| 22.10.21 | City | 4 | United | 1 | 21. 4.73 | United | 0 | City | 0 |
| 29.10.21 | United | 3 | City | 1 | 13. 3.74 | City | 0 | United | 0 |
| 12. 9.25 | City | 1 | United | 1 | 27. 4.74 | United | 0 | City | 1 |
| 23. 1.26 | United | 1 | City | 6 | 27. 9.75 | City | 2 | United | 2 |
| 1. 9.28 | City | 2 | United | 2 | 4. 5.76 | United | 2 | City | ō |
| 5. 1.29 | United | 1 | City | 2 | 25. 9.76 | City | ī | United | 3 |
| 5.10.29 | United | 1 | City | 3 | 5. 3.77 | United | 3 | City | 1 |
| 8, 2,30 | City | Ö | United | 1 | 10. 9.77 | City | 3 | United | i |
| 4.10.30 | City | 4 | United | i | 15. 3.78 | United | 2 | City | 2 |
| 7. 2.31 | United | ī | City | 3 | 30. 9.78 | | 1 | | |
| 12. 9.36 | United | 3 | City | 2 | | United | | City | 0 |
| 9. 1.37 | City | 1 | United | Õ | 10. 2.79 | City | 0 | United | 3 |
| 20. 9.47 | | ò | | _ | 10.11.79 | City | 2 | United | 0 |
| | City | | United | 0 | *At Maine | Hoad. | | | |
| 7. 7.48* | United | 1 | City | 1 | | _ | | | |
| 11. 9.48 | City | 0 | United | 0 | | | W D | | A PTS |
| 22. 1.49* | United | 0 | City | 0 | MAN. UTC | | 20 15 | 14 74 6 | |
| 3. 9.49 | United | 2 | City | 1 | MAN. UTI | | 16 18 | 16 67 7 | |
| 31.12.49 | City | 1 | United | 2 | TOTAL | 99 | 36 33 | 30 141 14 | 0 105 |
| 15. 9.51 | City | 1 | United | 2 | | | | | |
| 19. 1.52 | United | 1 | City | 1 | | | W D | L F | A PTS |
| 30. 8.52 | City | 2 | United | 1 | MAN. CIT | | 16 18 | 16 75 6 | 7 50 |
| 3. 1.53 | United | 1 | City | 1 | MAN. CIT | Y (a) 49 | 14 15 | 20 65 7 | |
| 5. 9.53 | City | 2 | United | 0 | TOTAL | | | 36 140 14 | |
| | • | | | | | | | | |





WHEN William Ralph 'Dixie'
Dean died within minutes of
the final whistle at the recent
Merseyside derby, football lost
one of its greatest legends.
There are few people who leave
such an indelible mark on a sport
that their name lives on for ever—
hut Dixie Dean comes into that

but Dixie Dean comes into that

category.
Just as the name Stirling Moss
will always be synonymous with
motor racing, and W. G. Grace
with cricket, so there have been
thousands of kids playing with a
tennis ball in a back-alley who
loved to be known as Dixie after
the great master. the great master.

His goalscoring feats will never his goalscoring reats will never be beaten. To score 60 League goals in a season is now beyond some teams, let alone one man, yet that is what Dean did for Everton in 1927-28.

Not satisfied with that, he plundered another 22 goals in Cup and international matches that season, for a staggering total of 82 goals — most of them with that most famous forehead in football.



In 12 years at Goodison Park he rattled in no fewer than 349 goals statistics which are shudderingly unattainable these

shudderingly unactamable shows days.
His passing was tragically ironic in that only hours before his death Dixie had been telling a SHOOT reporter how thrilled he was to be at Goodison for the derby game—hallave it as not it was the first believe it or not it was the first 'derby' he had watched since the end of his playing career.

"Once a true blue always a true blue," he said recalling the marvellous times he had playing for Everton.

"We always had tremendous battles with Liverpool but they were always played in good spirit, and there was more humour in Marsayeida darbies than any Merseyside derbies than any

others.

Liverpool always had good goalkeepers and Everton good centre-forwards, and I don't mean

myself necessarily, I'm referring to people like Tommy Lawton as

"I remember one season when we played Liverpool and they had Elisha Scott in goal. Now there was a man, and without doubt he was the finest goalkeeper of his

day.

"Anyway I scored three goals in the first nine minutes, and the third goal was a header which went between the top of Elisha's and the crossbar.

went between the top of his head and the crossbar.

"The Liverpool left-back at the time was a man called Joe Jackson, and he was a bit of a bible puncher, but when the third goal puncher, but when the third goal went in the language really started. As we walked back to the centre circle for the restart, Jackson tapped me on the shoulder and said 'William, I will never play in front of that man again'—and he never did!" again' — and he never did!'
That was just one of the

memories of Dixie Dean only a couple of hours before he died, but there will be scores of stories about this great man which will be told for years.

Character

At a lunch before the game, at which Dixie was guest of honour, that other great character one always associates with Merseyside, Bill Shankly, referred to Dean as "Rembrandt, Beethoven and Mendelssohn rolled into one. He was poetry in motion, the finest of his time, and his feats will never be surpassed, his records never broken."

After the match with his great At a lunch before the game, at

After the match with his great friend gone Shankly said: "If Billy friend gone Shankly said: "If Billy Dean could have chosen a place and a time to die he would have chosen Goodison Park on derby day. I suppose it would have made the perfect ending for him if Everton had won, but he spent his final hours on the ground ha leved final hours on the ground he loved and where he was loved and idolised by the Everton supporters."

supporters."
And Joe Mercer, who played with Dean in the famous blue shirt, and who was with him when he died echoed those words: "Where else could Dixie possibly have died? This was his resting place. We're all going to miss him terribly. He was a great man and terribly. He was a great man and he'll leave us with a whole host of fond memories."





A LTHOUGH England's game with Spain next week is a friendly, it will present Ron Greenwood with, perhaps, more selection problems than usual. Having qualified for the European Championship Finals, he must now start to play the nucleus of his side for Italy fairly soon.

Spain, of course, are amongst our group rivals, so there is an argument for not 'revealing all' against them in Barcelona.

Neither team will want to lose even though the friendly has no significance on the 'real thing' in Italy. The manager may decide to give younger players such as Glenn Hoddle and Bryan Robson a taste of competitive same. competitive game.



I've thought about all the possibilities and my only conclusion is that Ron Greenwood faces a selection dilemma!

I can't see Spain playing their full side. Continentals rarely do under such circumstances and I fancy they'll keep something back in reserve, even as an excuse for defeat!

One reason why the Barcelona match has no bearing on the Euro-

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pean Championship tie is that next week England are playing away and Spain at home. When we meet in Naples it will be on neutral territory and Spain won't have the backing of their fanatical supporters. This is why victory for England would be all the more satisfying, having won in their own back yard, so to speak.

Anything less than a 'home win' for Spain must knock their confidence for the 'away' tie.

We have five games before the European Championship starts and there is a good case for playing some of the inexperienced players in Spain. It's our last game on foreign soil before Italy and I know from my international career that playing at Wembley and abroad are ampton. If I'm honest, the main reason I prefer to play away is that fewer fans will see me. My United debut still embarrasses me - the game just passed me by . . .

The white-hot atmosphere of Barcelona next week will present a stern test to whoever plays, that's for sure.

I've played in Spain just once before, down in the South in Seville, in a pre-season friendly for Chelsea. Argentina World Cup winner Daniel Bertoni had not long

ticularly memorable match. I don't recall Spain being out-standing during the 1978 World Cup, although we didn't see much of them on our TV. I often liken the

joined them, but it was not a par-



impressed in his first game back for City.

Selection problem to

completely different.

Ron Greenwood likes to give players their debut at Wembley and I can see the sense in that. The player in question has had his confidence built up by the Press and the Wembley fans will be behind him, even if he makes a mistake. There is less pressure on a young star mak-ing his England debut at Wembley, although having said that, I like to play away in my first match!

My first full game for Chelsea was at Tottenham; my England debut was in New York; while my Manchester United debut was at SouthSpanish football team to the Scotland Rugby Union XV; they may not win too often, but chances are somewhere during the game they'll show their flair and score the best goal or try.

I'd be hard pushed to name too many of their players, although the evergreen Asensi is a good midfielder while Migueli at the back is a tough customer.

Someone compared next week's game with my debut against Italy in New York four years ago. We beat the Italians 3-2, but then lost to them in the 1978 World Cup qualifying group. It isn't quite the same, though.

First, we beat Italy on neutral ground and secondly, the reason we weren't in Argentina wasn't because we lost to them in Rome, but because we didn't score enough goals against Finland and Luxembourg. We did, after all, beat Italy 2-0 at Wembley.

So I stress, the friendly against Spain has no bearing on our clash in the European Championship. I'm confident we can come home with a good result, though, because generally speaking we've found it easier to play away from home. So many sides are just thankful to be at Wembley and defend in depth to avoid defeat.

Special

Before Barcelona, there is a very important League game for United, as you'll have seen from the cover! Local derbies are always special, but it's the 100th, there is more spice than usual to it.

Kevin Reeves' arrival at Maine Road will give the match even more impetus. Robinson-Reeves, it could become a lethal partnership.

We lost fair and square at Maine Road a few months ago. Our second-half performance was poor and City deserved their 2-0 victory. City have had so many players coming and going this season that it isn't surprising they haven't found any rhythm. No side can chop and change as they have and keep a balance.

international stars left and inexperienced players replaced them. We had a similar situation when I was at Chelsea and the young team struggled.

he seems a man who sticks by his

he's made a decision, which isn't necessarily a bad thing. The only players I know are Joe Corrigan and Dennis Tueart from England trips.

I saw Dennis's City debut (well, his second one) against Norwich earlier this month. I was injured and didn't travel to Ipswich, so I popped along to Maine Road. Dennis showed up well and was the only bright spot in a disappointing performance. Mind you, the Maine Road fans didn't care when the score kept coming through from Ipswich . . .

That game is dead and gone as far as we're concerned. I saw Lou-Macari on the Monday afterwards and asked him what went wrong. "Don't ask me!" he replied, which

United haven't been playing well lately and we know it, although we've still managed to win as often as not. This has been mainly due to keeping a clean sheet, or our defence holding on. I think we were heading for someone to hit a few past us, but I didn't think it would be six.

Saturday's game will be very hard for us, even though City have no chance of winning the League. The last team they want to be Champions are United, so if they can take a point or two they'll be delighted to have hindered our title bid.

I may not be a Mancunian, but it's impossible not to realise the derby matches are different. When we played City last time, I could sense how keen they were to win and it was the same with our lads, even though they weren't locals. 'I've never seen a dressing room as depressed as ours after that Maine Road defeat.

Hopefully, we can avenge that result — it will certainly be an exciting week for me, whatever





TAXING PROBLEM

THE Spanish tax-man has suddenly decided to put into effect a law that was passed in 1974 but never enforced. The law slapped a 4.4% tax on all transfer deals, and the authorities are now demanding all the money owed.

Real Madrid have been asked to find £350,000 and Barcelona and Valencia owe similar sums. Real's president, Luis de Carlos, is trying to strike a bargain with the tax-man in a bid to spread the payments.

"It's as if your landlord forgets to collect the rent for five years and suddenly knocks on your door with all 260 weekly bills in his hand. You can't do business like that

STRANGE NEWS

SOMETIMES I get some curious news from South America, and it takes a while to unravel all the details. A case in point was a short note saying that while Boca Juniors were beating Quilmes in the second game of Argentina's Metropolitan of Argentina's Metropolitan

Championship, they were simultaneously taking part in the Torre del Vigla tournament in Uruguay. What's more, their match against Peñarol had to be suspended in the 71st minute when no fewer than nine Boca players were sent-off. Maybe they had to catch the plane home for the Legue metal. for the League match!



Bonhof joins 0 club

RAINER BONHOF (above) became the 14th member of West Germany's '50 Club' when he won his 50th inter-national cap against Malta recently. The 27-year-old midfielder scored in the Germans' runaway 8-0 victory, which was their final European Championship qualifying tie. Here are Germany's other '50 Club' members:

103 .. Franz Beckenbauer

Bertie Vogts Sepp Maier

Wolfgang Overath Uwe Seeler 81

72

Paul Janes

66 Willi Schulz, Horst-Dieter Höttges Ernst Lehner

65

62 Gerd Müller

61 Fritz Walter

Wolfgang Weber Herbert Erhardt

The danger to Brazil

THERE are 96 Brazilian players in Belgium right now. This startling piece of news was given by Antonio Calçada, vice-president of Vasco da Gama, the club that sold Roberto to Barcelona recently.

"While people complain we have sold a Brazilian national team player to Spain, they are unaware that the real drain in our pool of players is happening right now, every day, almost every hour, and that we are losing young players that could play for our country in future World Cups," says senhor Calcada.

senhor Calçada.

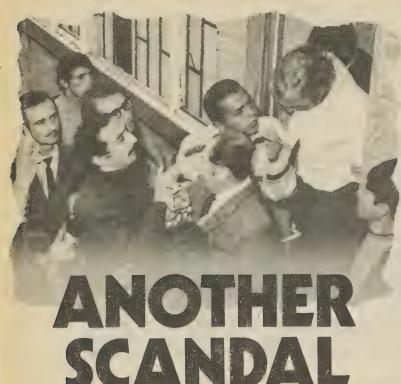
He thinks this drain is far more serious than selling abroad the odd Brazilian team

"Portuguese is almost becoming a second language on the football pitches of the Arab countries, such is the number of Brazilian players, coaches, trainers and even doctors and masseurs who have emi-

even doctors and masseurs who have emi-grated, attracted by the petrodollars.
"The reason why the Europeans, the Mexicans, the Arabs and the Americans keep taking our players away is very sim-ple: the clubs in Brazil don't take enough money at the gates to pay the players what they want. We have huge crowds, but the admission tickets are very inexpensive (about 90p on average)."



- * People have viewed with misgivings * People have viewed with misgivings Barcelona's plans to enlarge their Nou Camp stadium to a capacity of 120,000 — which will make it the largest in Europe. But 12,000 fans have already requested seats in the new stand extensions, even though prices range from £245 to £420.
- ★ USSR national team boss Konstantin Boskov is doubling up as manager of the Olympic Games team. He currently has a 42 man squad training in the Crimea and has named an 18-man party of Olympic 'possibles' to play and train in Italy.
- * According to the Danish F.A. they currently have 48 players playing abroad with professional clubs. Fourteen of them are in Holland, and ten each in Belgium and West Germany.
- * East Germany will be the hosts for the 1980 U.E.F.A. Cup for teams under 18-years-old and they are sparing no effort to win it. In the first half of their season they played 27 players in no less than 14 friendly games against international opposition, all from Socialist countries.
- * The first official Championship of the new Vietnam has got under way. The opening match was watched by a crowd of 30,000 and they saw the Hanoi Police Club beat Ho-Chi-Minh City 4-0.
- ★ Robin Hood FC are the new Champions of Surinam and will take part in the CONCACAF Cup, the Champions' Cup of Central America, which starts in April.



REMEMBER how Bobby Moore was accused of stealing a bracelet in Bogotá just before World Champions England were due to defend their title in Mexico in 1970 (see photo above).

Well, there was a repeat performance when World Champions Argentina sent their Olympic team to the Colombian capital.

The owner of a sports equipment shop has accused the Argentine players of making off with £800 worth of goods, saying that "the Embassy would pay".

The players deny the charge, and

as the Argentine squad has a contract with a well-known sports equipment manufacturer, it seems highly unlikely that they would have needed to acquire additional gear by any means, fair or foul.

Meanwhile, however, the owners of the hotel where the Argentine team stayed allege that the visitors did £1,000 worth of damage in their rooms.

It seems that the Colombian capital is 'allergic' to World Champ-

Journalists who attended the South American Olympic qualifying tournament in Colombia reckon that, if this is how the Colombians intend to organise the 1986 World Cup, there are going to be serious problems.

Security in Bogotá was sadly lacking, and there are even reports that a group of drunks somehow managed to wander on to the field of play during one of the matches!

v.....

Sackedafter two games!

BRAZILIAN manager Delem is fast heading for a dismal record in Argentina. He's been sacked twice in the last four months, and his latest dismissal from Claudio Marangoni's old club San Lorenzo came after the side had lost — wait for it — just two League games! Delem had previously been dismissed from Diego Maradona's club, Argentines

from Diego Maradona's club, Argentinos Juniors, for not insisting on a sufficient level of discipline, and his ultra-speedy sacking at San Lorenzo came after the side had lost their opening fixtures 0-3 to, ironically, Argentinos Juniors and 1-3 to newly-promoted Ferro Carril Oeste.

SAN LORENZO are not the only big names to find themselves struggling after the opening skirmishes in the League. Rosario Central took just one point from their first three games, and Vélez Sarsfield, Huracán and Boca Juniors are also in the bottom five. Boca, now managed by Antonio Rattin, were hammered 5-2 by early leaders Newell's Old Boys
— their heaviest defeat for four
years. Santamaria scored a hat-trick
for Newell's and joined team-mate
Yazaide and Talleres striker Bravo at the head of the scoring charts.

★ Morocco's national team manager, Just Fontaine, was rushed to hospital by helicopter after being injured in a road accident near Meknes. Fontaine, on his way to a match against Senegal, is now recovering well.

A Spanish sports paper, shuffling names of possible managers for Bar-celona next season, recently suggested that "Bob Paisley of Celtic" is on the short list.

News flashes

• Funny how attitudes differ. The Buenos Aires Press raved about Racing striker Scalise after he'd scored the second goal against Vélez Sarsfield. The papers were full of his praises, and not one report mentioned that he'd been sent-off 13 minutes before the end!

 French title challengers St.-Etienne reckon to have cut their tally of colds and flu by 25 per cent since installing a battery of ten hair-dryers in their dressing-rooms. Obviously this is not to be succeed at.



 Hans Krankl (above), on loan to
 F.C. Vienna from trouble-torn F.C. Vienna from trouble-torn
Barcelona, made a sensational debut by
scoring his side's winning goal when the
Austrian League resumed after the
winter break. F.C. Vienna are bottom of
the table, but Krankl's goal against his
old club Rapid Vienna gave them a
valuable away win that takes them within
striking range of fellow strugglers
Admiral Wacker, Sturm Graz and
Wacker Sportclub.

The Greek League relapsed into the old-style doldrums when ten of the 18 First Division teams failed to score in their 22nd fixture of the season. Prior to this dismal day, the Greeks had considerably improved their striking rate in the League, and the title race is now seally hotting in with just four moints. really hotting up, with just four points separating the top seven teams with 12 games to play.

◆ After failing to qualify for the 1978 World Cup the Uruguayan F.A. asked manager Roque Maspoli to submit a list of possibles for the 1982 campaign and his 47 prospects have been banned from joining foreign clubs for the next two wears Maspoli is the only former. years. Maspoli is the only former goalkeeper who is currently managing a national team. He played for Uruguay in the 1954 World Cup in Switzerland where they crushed Scotland 7-1.

Arminia Bielefeld, leaders of the Bundesliga Division Two North, have been unbeaten in 17 League games. They are chasing the Division Two record set by Hamburg 11-15 Paril by Hamburg club St. Pauli who went unbeaten for 27 games in 1976-77. However, after promotion St. Pauli were relegated again and went broke, and now

• Raul Gorriti, who spent some time in England hoping that Luton, among others, would sign him, has now found a buyer in Argentina. The Peruvian World Cup reserve has signed for Instituto Córdoba.

 Juventus have invited the former German forward Helmut Haller (left) to return as adviser for two

 Atletico Madrid have fined their international midfielder Eugenio Leal £700 for persist-ently attending late-night bingo ses-

• Spanish side Logrones put up their prices with a vengeance for their Cup clash with giants Real Madrid. The Third Division side charged a minimum of £7 to stand on the terraces, and jubilantly netted gate receipts of £125,000!

Refs blacked!

BARCELONA are fast running out of referees! In Spain, the clubs have a considerable say in which referees they like and don't like, and can draw up a list of those they don't want to referee their games. As the team's results have been poor this season, the Barcelona directors have naturally put most of the blame on referees and no fewer than 12 are now on their black list!

"HE West German F.A. have received a complaint from Borussia a complaint from Borussia Mönchengladbach, who were forced to play the first three minutes against Bayern Munich with only ten men. Just before the kick-off, the referee entered their dressing-room to inspect the players' studs, for which the Germans have no regulations.

The referee ruled that Winfried

The referee ruled that Winfried Schaefer must change his studs, though Borussia claim that all the players boots were studded from the same

Borussia have asked their F.A. to rule that if referees want to inspect studs they must do it at least ten minutes before kick-off to give the players time if they have to change boots or studs.

TELE SANTANA, the new Brazil manager, has stated that his national side must constantly be in action. His idea is to play at least one game per month to create team-spirit. Tele took over officially on March 1st and selects his first squad for a training game on March 26th.

Mannwhile a directive formath.

Meanwhile, a directive from the F.A. obliges all teams playing in the Championship to travel by bus to fixtures of up to 280 miles away. This is part of a national plan to conserve energy.

REAL Betis have 'done an Ipswich' in the Spanish League this season. For most of the first half of the League programme they were propping up the table, but after Luis 'Cid' Carriega took over the team they started a sensational run that took them above traditional 'giants' such as Barcelona. Their latest success is a 1-1 away draw with Real Madrid — the first home point that the defending Champions have dropped this term.

Brazilian playboy Francisco Marinho has joined Fort Lauderdale Strikers from the Cosmos for an undisclosed sum.



HRIS Nicholl, the Southampton centre-half, makes a point of never making predictions—he prefers not to look beyond the next game. But the big Northern Ireland international is ready to relax his ruling long enough to concede that the ambitious Saints are set to go places in 1980.

Situated in the League in a position which gives them an excellent chance to finish in the top six, Southampton can also look forward to having Kevin Keegan in their line-up later in the year, two

facts which prompt Nicholl to view the future with reasonable optimism.

"We've been getting good

"We are a small club compared to some, with a present ground capacity of 24,000. A large number of people in the area show a greater interest in cricket than they do in football. But what I would like us to do is to finish as close to Liverpool and Manchester United as we can. That would be

an achievement on our part."
Following their F.A. Cup Final victory over Manchester United in 1976, Southampton's success was looked upon by many as a "flash in the pan", but they won promotion from Division Two in 1978. A year later, Saints finished 14th in the First Division, and this term have more than held their own in the body is talking about our future prospects, and our manager, Lawrie McMenemy, has done a great public relations job for the city by securing a player who had the leading clubs to choose from.

'And the boss is trying to further enhance our image by contacting local authorities in an effort to improve our facilities or build a new stadium — it is all part of a plan to put Southampton on the map

Nicholl, who gained success with Aston Villa, including two victories in the League Cup, considers himself to have been lucky throughout his career.

"I've never suffered any major

FILLE E AINTS TAR

results," Chris says. "And since Mike Channon rejoined us, he has taken some of the pressure off Phil Boyer, who has been scoring regularly, with Alan Ball setting up some of the goals. Of course, with the way the teams are grouped in the First Division at the moment, a couple of defeats could mean a drop of several places for us in the

"But without any interest left for Southampton in the F.A. Cup, all we have to aim at is a leading League spot, which would take us into Europe. As to winning the title, I can't see anybody stopping Liverpool, although we've had the satisfaction of taking three points from them this season.

top flight.

And while Nicholl's chief priority is to help his club to do well between now and May, he is also looking forward to the time when England skipper Keegan pulls on a Southampton shirt.

"Kevin's talents are well known,

and as a defender I've found him a difficult man to pin down - he is very strong on the ball. He certainly made an impact on me in one match I played against him, because he accidentally broke two of my front teeth when both of us were jumping for a high ball!
"Although it will be some

months before he turns out for us, the news that Kevin is coming to The Dell has aroused tremendous interest in Southampton. Everyset-backs. The biggest disappointment I can remember was that of being turned down by Burnley as a

schoolboy.
"Since then, I've enjoyed my football at club and international level. I thought that Danny Blanchflower did a good job with North-ern Ireland, and I'd like the opportunity to prove myself to his successor, Billy Bingham. "But first, I want Southampton

to keep on picking up as many points as possible.

"I am convinced we can make a real impression in Europe next season, but our main priority until then is to ensure our qualification. People who say we have nothing left to play for are wrong, we must win every game."



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JOHN IS SURE CITY CAN ESCAPE AGAIN

SINCE winning a regular first reserve team players have been team place in October, 1976, given their chance, but we just Bristol City goalkeeper John Shaw haven't been collecting points. has taken part in more than one determined struggle by his club to stay in the First Division.

Now, with relegation looming again at Ashton Gate, the big Scot makes a comparison between the present situation and the one that existed almost three years ago. Says John: "In our last match of

1976-77 season away to Coventry, we needed a point to stay up. But they took a 2-0 lead, and the chances of getting it seemed remote — then we fought back to score twice, the second goal coming with only five minutes to go.

"Coventry, too, needed a point to avoid relegation, and the 2-2 draw kept us both up, just ahead of Sunderland.

'Doomed'

"It is hard to imagine more of a cliff-hanger than that one, as people had already written off Bristol City — we were considered as being doomed for the drop into the Second Division. After that experience, it would be hard to convince us that there is no hope for our team this season."

In the season after their narrow escape, Bristol City improved to the extent that they finished six places from bottom, then in 1978-79, occupied a spot just below mid-table in the First Division. And Shaw praises the influence of Norman Hunter on the City defence, with his confidence rubbing off on his team-mates.

"Norman was bought from Leeds United to keep us in the First Division, and this is exactly what

he did for us.
"Of course, everybody realised learned a lot from him while he

was here.
"After Norman left, the team
"After Norman left, only in have had problems, not only in defence, and injuries haven't

Our manager has been searching for a good blend, and several again."

given their chance, but we just haven't been collecting points. "It's amazing the difference a

win or two can make to a side that is struggling, and I now find myself trying to will the ball into the opponent's net."

Shaw admits that his club are handicapped in a search for new players by not having the cash that is available to the wealthier teams. But he is dead against a Super League being formed for the Liver-pools and Manchester Uniteds, with the poorer clubs grouped in an inferior Division.

'Nottingham Forest came out of nowhere to make a name for themselves, and this season, Crystal Palace have done well enough since their promotion. Also, Southampton and Ipswich, neither of them with a lot of money to spare, are keeping up among the leaders. Instead of splitting up clubs, an effort should be made to keep them together.

"After all, the game in general is going through a difficult time, and unity is the best way to keep the English First Division as one that can compare with any in the world."

As well as possessing strong views against the formation of a Super League, Shaw is also against the idea held in some quarters that Scottish goalkeepers are inferior to those in England,

Says John: "I think that too much has been made of mistakes made at Wembley by Scottish keepers in international matches. But where I do think that English goalkeepers have the edge is when they are full-time professionals, able to concentrate 100 per cent on improving.

As far as John Shaw is conthat he would only be at Ashton cerned, he will be devoting much Gate for a limited period, but we of his time between now and the end of the season to keeping as many clean sheets as possible for **Bristol City.**

"There is quite a way to go yet before May in which to climb out of the bottom three in the League. We've done it before, and can do it

SWINDON made to measure for Mayes

WOLVES manager John Barn-towards the end of last season, he well thankfully saw his side scored 11 goals from 21 games: edge their way into the League this season, his scoring record Cup Final with a 4-3 aggregate speaks for itself. He and Andy victory over Swindon Town in the Semi-Finals and said. "That's the best Third Division side I've seen in

my life."

Alan Mayes, the striker plundering goals galore in the Wiltshire club's brilliant run in the League Cup, F.A. Cup and promotion challenge, says: "We've had a lot of compliments like that. The point is that they go up in smoke if we fail to make the Second Division for

to make the Second Division for next season.

"We would be really sick at missing promotion for the second successive season — not that we are thinking in those terms! We will be battling all the way to the finish and we know, beyond any shadow of doubt, that we are good enough. We've proved that to everyone in the game."

enough. We've proved that to everyone in the game."
Mayes has also proved himself. When manager Bobby Smith paid £80,000 for him after Christmas 1978, he was taking an expensive gamble. "Alan could not get his place at Watford in face of competition from Luther Blissett and Bosen Luther Blissett and Bos tion from Luther Blissett and Ross Jenkins so, in fact, I was spending almost a record amount on a Third Division reserve

'As events have turned out, my judgment and his form have been spot on. When he came to our side Rowland have formed a tremen-dous partnership."
"It has worked out to be a mar-

vellous move for me," says Mayes "There's been so much excitement at Swindon, first with the promo-tion bid last season; then with the League and both Cup runs this time. Everything has been happen-

ing for us
"At the time I left Watford, my chances were limited. Graham Taylor tried to get me to play wide

Taylor tried to get me to play wide to Luther and Ross — there was also Keith Mercer looking for a place at the front — but I'd always reckoned myself as a striker."

Swindon's style is made to measure for Alan. Home or away, they let loose with a rolling offensive of attacks and chances are guaranteed to come his way time after time during a game. time during a game.

"Mind you, our kind of pattern has its perils," admits Alan. "I've lost count of the sides we've murdered yet, at the final whistle, have ended with nothing after being caught on the break. It happened last season, especially, when we were in at the death for promotion: this time I think there is that little bit more discipline in the side

to see us through.

"We know we are capable of seeing off any side in the Division—and quite a few in the First and Second Divisions as well as we've shown this season—but the real test is whether we finish in one of those top three positions."
Manager Smith reflects: "Last

season, we won more games than any side in the Third Division, our attacking style is the kind of game I like to play. It is also the one that best suits our players.

'Experience'

"We also lost more games than the other leading teams because of our adventurous policy but I think the very experience of that narrow miss last season makes us more likely to pull if off this time. Whether we do or not, however, that does not change one fact: we are a very good side indeed.

"We proved that against Luton and Spurs in the F.A. Cup; against Stoke, Arsenal and Wolves in the League Cup. Matching teams like them over five months of Cup football is a lot more than a 'one off sensation. the other leading teams because of

'Alan and Andy have become the focal point because of the goals they score — but they'd be the first to admit that it is the teamwork going on behind them which carves out the scoring chances."



STAN Anderson, the new man-ager of relegation-haunted Bol-ton Wanderers, is not planning a Burnden Park revolution or a complete clearout.

Whatever the critics might think, we are still in the First Division and we have the nucleus of a good side at this club," he says. "People are talking about panic and crisis. There is no crisis. The only thing wrong is that we cannot

win matches.

Anderson, who took over at Burnden Park a month after the sacking of lan Greaves, adds: "When I was appointed at the end of February, we'd only won one League game all season, but in certain matches we've played a hell of a lot better than we did last season when we escaped relega-

season when we escaped relega-tion quite easily.

"At the end of the day we're possibly going to be relegated. But that doesn't mean to say that we haven't got the nucleus of players and, as far as I am concerned, my major job is to make sure those players are still with us at the

beginning of next season.
"Of the present side, two players



declares new manager

are definitely leaving. Peter Reid is out of contract and he's made up his mind that he wants to go, but we'll be looking for a big fee for him. Willie Morgan will be departing for America in the summer he's getting a free transfer. Apart from that, all the players are under contract until 1981 and as such are

part of the plans.
"It might be possible to replace those two players with people who are already at the club, but if that isn't on, then we've got to go out and buy."

Anderson is not prepared to accept relegation until it actually happens. "We've still got something to prove this year," he says. "If by some miracle we escape the big drop, then I'll be the happiest man in the world. But we've got to

Our best chance is obviously to encourage players to come here on the understanding that we're going to make a supreme effort to get out of the Second Division next year at the first time of asking. And I've every hope of doing that

"It's not a case of experimenting with youngsters. If I have a side whose average age is 21 or 22 and we are successful, then I think that would augur well for the future of Bolton Wanderers."

Anderson, who teamed up with

lan Greaves in November, 1978, after four years as manager of Doncaster Rovers, continued: When the team came out of the Second Division even lan was convinced that certain players would have to be replaced after a couple

'It's just a process of elimination along the line, whether you can do it from a reserve team point of view, or whether it involves buy-ing players, lan Greaves chose the latter and on the face of it they looked very good buys. It hasn't worked, but there is no reason why it can't work next year.

why it can't work next year.
"One player who arrived on the Burnden scene was Polish internation Tad Nowak. He has potential, but his problem at the moment is that he's a little apprehensive. He also has the problem of being a foreign import and possibly doesn't understand the language as well as he would want.

'Command'

"Tad has made himself some tremendous openings, but has failed to stick the ball into the back of the net. I think this is due to lack of confidence and the fact that he hasn't been able to command a

regular first team place.

"It has been said that we face a cash problem and that we cannot compete with the likes of Manchester United. That is a load of rubbish. We may not be silly with our cash, because we need value for manager. for money.

But there are Ipswich and Norwich, plus all the other clubs, who are in a similar situation.

"What we've got to do is to put a certain side on the field that will attract people through the turn-stiles. We need the support, but we've got to start winning."

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THE Football Club Tourcoing, from Northern France, wants British teams with players aged between 13-15 years to take part in an international tournament to be held between 31st May and

Ist June, 1980.

If your club is interested ask the manager to write to Delerue, 3 Rue de l'Allumette, 59170 Croix, France for further details.

GEORGE Graham's benefit at Wimbledon Stadium in his testimonial season. Most of his Crystal Palace club mates turned up. 'Stroller' is retiring at the end of the season, but helping him here are from left! Kenny Sansom, Steve Kamber, Vince Hilaire, Frank McLintock (his Arsanal Double skipper), Jim Cannon, George, Paul Hinshelwood and Jerry Murphy.

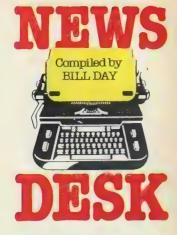
'George Best is a joke'

NOTTINGHAM Forest captain John McGovern has made an astonishing attack on George Best. The wayward Irishman, now playing for Scottish Premier Division side Hibernian, was once McGovern's idol. Not any more.

It is stupid that Hibs should give George another chance," says McGovern. "He doesn't deserve any sympathy or help from anyone in the game.

"George has destroyed himself as a player. He ranked alongside Cruyff, Beckenbauer and Pele in my view. He is no more than a joke. I feel sorry for the other Hibs players, who have worked hard and turned up every week for much less than George earns.

'He has had one chance too many and he simply doesn't have the skills that made him world



BALLYMENA United defend George Beattie, a one-time Ulster junior amateur boxing Champion had to choose between gloves in the ring or boots on the field. Football won.



LUTON centre-half Mike Saxby has a growing fan club.

A £200,000 buy from Mansfield last summer, he has become the cornerstone of the Second Division promotion-

Fulham boss Bobby Campbell rejoined the praises recently: "Saxby did a more than useful job for Luton. He caused us plenty of problems at both ends and he could do well where Luton might be going next term."

But Luton manager David Pleat is quick to keep praise for 'Big Sax' as he is popularly known at Kenilworth Road, in perspective. "Yes, he could be a very good player but unfortunately he has a habit of playing badly every six games or so. You should have seen him at Oldham - he had a rank bad game!"

LINCOLN manager Colin Murphy ignored the more fashionable Holland and South America when he raided the 'foreign' market looking for new talent.

He went to Gibraltar — and came back with a winner in 17-year-old Craig Ramsav

The lad with the famous footballing name joined The Imps as an apprentice last summer and made a big impression on his League debut recently — scoring one and making the other in a 2-1 win over Newport.



WHO? They have played a major part Chelses's promotion run this season and love fancy drace parties. Their faces and identities are revealed on the opposite page.

GUESS

Police boost schools soccer

PLANS for the world's largest five a side football competition have been unveiled by the Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir David McNee.

The tournament begins in May, leading up to Finals night at Wembley Arena in

An estimated 28,000 youngsters from all

Over London will be taking part.
West Ham and England midfield star,
Trevor Brooking, says: "It gives the
youngsters an excellent chance to develop

youngsters an excellent chance to develop their skills. I think the schoolboy standard has dropped in recent years.

"When I was young, I would spend hours on end kicking a ball against a wall. That doesn't happen so much these days."

The Midland Bank are sponsoring the competition and have promised £22,000 and the use of their sports grounds.

The Met's top striker! Police Commissioner Sir David McNee

Lutons stars

AN item in the Swansea City programme made for interesting reading for Luton fans. Columnist Tony Howard picked his best Second Division team.

best Second Division team.
The line-up: Findlay (Luton), Todd (Birmingham), Roeder (OPR), Wicks (OPR), Rofe (Leicester now Chelsea), Valentine (Oldham), Grealish (Luton), Brooking (West Ham), Moss (Luton), Young (Leicester), Hatton (Luton). Sub: Peake (Leicester) (Leicester).

LOAN "transfers" from England to
America are now outlewed — but not for
Gary Megson.
Everton's latest signing — at £250,000
from Plymouth Argyle in February — will
be spending two months in the States this
summer. And at the expense of NASL club
Portland Timbers.
Gary's father, former Sheffield
Wednesday full-back Don, is in his third
year as manager of Portland and part of
his contract is a free air ticket for each
member of the family.
"I've been there for the last two
summers," says Gary, who scored his first
goal for Everton in the FA Cup win against
Wrexham.

Steve's still wanted

ABERDEEN striker Steve Archibald remains a top target for English League clubs despite the Scottish club's rejection of a bid for his talents by Tottenham.

Spurs' general manager Bill Nicholson went to Pittodrie to watch Jock Stein's latest international recruit in action against Airdrie in the Scottish

Cup and was deeply impressed. But Spurs boss Keith Burkinshaw says: "Aberdeen are still in the Cup and won't talk."

Pittodrie manager Alex Ferguson can't prevent other bosses from watching Archibald, but he says: "The boy has been a good player all season

for this club and he has until a year in June until his contract expires. We will do everything we can to keep him at Aberdeen after that."

It seems likely that Archibald, just turned 23, will remain with The Dons until that contract runs out, but unless he gets an exceptionally-lavish new deal then it could be that he will take his flashing, devastating penalty box talents to English football. Arsenal manager Terry Neill watched him earlier in the season and, like Nicholson, saw him in goalscoring action. Archibald scored three on that occasion — a League Cup Quarter-Final tie against Celtic.

Brady's getting

MAY promises to be an exciting month in the career of Liam Brady. By the end of the season we should know where the Arsenal and Republic of Ireland midfielder will display his skills next season. But an equally important move will be into the married ranks. At the end of May, Liam will wed his London-born flancee Sarah Hillier.

Sarah is a keen soccer fan and she met Liam in a Dublin pub where they were both watching one of the Home internationals on television a few years back.

years back.

And here's a clue to Brady's next club. His future wife does not like Italian food!

REGARDING our Phil Parkes competition, issue dated 8th March, we point out that Starcraft Sports distribute Phil Parkes Gloves under their brand name of METRIC.



Botham-a REAL all-rounder

DAYS when county cricketers would double-up and play soccer in the winter to boost their incomes have long gone. Or so we thought! But Ian Botham,

arguably the finest all-round cricketer Eng-land has produced, had hardly stepped off the 'plane on his return from cricket duty in

Australia than he was seeking ways of expending more energy.
He chose to play football for Scunthorpe United Reserves against Notts County Reserves, while most of his cricket teammates were still resting from the effects of

an arduous few months. Botham played as striker.

The game ended 1-1 and Botham said typically: "I'm disappointed at not getting on the score sheet." But he made amends against Doncaster Rovers Reserves by

- Directors seats at Norwich when Liverpool were the visitors. A ginger and white cat. When the Reds fifth goal went in it turned tail and vanished
- Ayr United are to spend the £30,643 received from the Football Grounds Improvement Trust on providing emergency lighting, fire alarms, crush barriers, concreting and exits at Somerset Park.
- Northern Ireland have imed-up prestigious schoolboy internationals against Holland, at The Oval, on April 29, and West Germany, at Windsor Park, exactly one month later, on
- Ballymena United
 supremo Alan Campbell has
 been handed a lucrative five-year managerial contract by the Showgrounds' management, a just reward, no doubt, for his revitalising the silverware-chasing County Antrim outfit during the last twelve months.
- Four Orient players are available for transfer, Alan Whittle, Steve Hamberger, Mark Gray and Chris Henney.
- Allan Evans, who joined Aston Villa in May 1977 from Dunfermline, is now the fourth longest serving player on the books. Only Brian Little, Dennis Mortimer and Gordon Cowans of the present first team squad have been longer at Villa
- Anyone interested in joining the London area of the Shaffield United Supporters' Club should contact:— Mr R. M. Allan, 25 Santos Road, Wandsworth, London, SW18 1NT. Telephone 01-874-9693 (office) or 01-874-1887 (night).



ONE player has been a model of consistency at troubled West Brom this season
... full-back Brendon Batson.
Albion boss Ron Atkinson rates Batson,

Albion boss Ron Atkinson rates Batson, aged 26, as one of the best bargains in football and recently recommended him to England manager Ron Greenwood. A bargain £40,000 signing from Atkinson's former club Cambridge United two years ago, many First Division bosses rate him the best right-back in the country.

Orient eye Holland

PAUL Allen has kept West Ham stalwart Pat Holland on the West Ham sidelines recently and East London neighbours recently and East London neighbours Orient are keeping an eager eye on developments.

developments.

Orient have already snapped up three exHammers this season — goalkeeper Mervyn Day, defender Tommy Taylor and
striker Billy Jennings — and Poplar-born
Holland could be next on their wanted list.
The versatile Holland has made over 250

The versatile Holland has made over 250 first team appearances for Hammers since he signed full pro forms in April, 1969 and is one of the most popular players in the Upton Park first team squad.

But with England Youth star Allen now firmly established in midfield and Geoff Pike improving with every game, Holland's future prospects at Upton Park look bleak. Orient manager Jimmy Bloomfield—another former Hammer—will be first in line if West Ham decide to part.

TOP SOCCER **'KODAK' COMPETITI**

TOP Soccer held a competition requesting readers to work out which English First Division football clubs were being visited by Santa. The clubs were: ARSENAL, ASTON VILLA, COVENTRY, EVERTON, CRYSTAL PALACE and LIVERPOOL. Senders of the neatest correct entries were the following who win Kodak

cameras.

Darren Atyeo, Wimborne. Duncan Boyes, Corby. Shaun Cain, Bristol. Martin Clarke, Barnsley. Aileen Fletcher, Glasgow. Tony Freeman, Orpington. Christopher Grice, Pontefract. Philip Grinstead, Yelverton. J. E. Harris, Newthorpe. Simon Kane, County Down. Patricia McKeown, Birmingham. Norman McLaughlin, Ballymena. Nicholas Mullan, Corby. Louis Robinson, Welling. J. Skeels, Wolverhampton. Andrew Smith, Barnsley. David Southam, Rugby. Robert Tucker, Launceston.



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E-UPS...RESULTS...SCORER

Tuesday, January 15

Third Division

GRIMSBY (0) 2 (Drinkell, Kilmore)
READING (0) 1 (Hetzke) 8,532
Grimsby: Batch; Stone, Moore (K), Waters, Wigginton (Mawer), Crombie, Brolly, Kilmore, Drinkell, Mitchell, Ford.

Reading: Death; Joslyn, White, Bowman, Hetzke, Moreline, Earles, Kearney, Heale, Sanchez, Lewis.

League Cup

(Semi-Final first-leg) SWINDON v WOLVES postponed.

ANGLO SCOTTISH CUP

(Semi-Final second-leg)

MORTON (0) 0 BRISTOL C. (0) 1 (Pritchard) Morton: Baines; Hayes, Holmes, Anderson, McLaughlin, Orr, McLaren (Mauchlen), Hutchinson, Thompson, Tolmie, Ritchie. Bristol C: Shaw; Tainton, Whitehead, Gow, Sweeney, Hay (Gillies), Pritchard, Fitzpatrick, Royle, Jantunen, Garland. (BRISTOL C. won 3-2 on aggregate)

Friday, January 18

Third Division

BLACKPOOL (1) 1 (Noble) SOUTHEND (0) 0 Blackpool: Hesford; Gardner, Pashley, Noble, Ashurst, Thompson, Morris, Doyle, Jones, Kel-

low. Harrison. Southend: Cawston; Moody, Yates, Stead, Hadley, Cusack, Gray, Parker, Spence,

Otulakowski, Pountney.

COLCHESTER (0) 0 CHESTERFIELD (0) 1 (Birch pen.) 3,763 Colchester: Walker; Cook, Packer, Leslie, Wignall, Dowman, Hodge (Wright), Gough, Foley, Lee Allinson.

Chesterfield: Kendall; Tartt, O'Neill, Ridley, Green, Kowalski, Birch, Moss, Walker, Salmons, Crawford.

Fourth Division

NEWPORT (1) 2 (Oakes, Bruton M.) HUDDERSFIELD (0) 2 (Sutton, Laverick)

Newport: Plumley: Walden, Relish, Bruton (D), Oakes, Bailey, Vaughan (Lowndes), Bruton (M) Aldridge, Moore,

Huddersfield: Rankin; Brown, Robinson, Stanton, Sutton, Hanvey, Laverick, Hart, Kindon, Robins, Cowling,

TRANMERE v HEREFORD postponed.

Saturday, January 19

First Division

ARSENAL (0) 2 (Brady pen., Young) 22,121 DERBY (0) 0 Arsenal: Jennings; Rice, Nelson, Talbot, Walford, Young, Brady, Sunderland, Stapleton, Price, Rix.

Derby: McKellar; Emery, Buckley, Daly, Webb, Powell (S), Clark, Powell (B), Biley, Davies,

BRIGHTON (0) 0 TOTTENHAM (2) 2 (Hughton, Villa) 29,417 Brighton: Moseley; Stevens, Williams, Horton, Foster (Sayer), Suddaby, Ryan, Ward, Clarke, Lawrenson, O'Sullivan.

Bristol C: Shaw; Tainton, Whitehead, Gow,

Rodgers, Sweeney, Fitzpetrick, Pritchard, Royle, Jantunen, Garland.

Ipswich: Cooper; Burley, Mills, Thijssen, Osman, Butcher, Wark, Muhren, Mariner, Brazil, Gates.

COVENTRY (1) 1 (Dyson) LIVERPOOL (0) 0 31,578

Coventry: Blyth; Coop, McDonald, Gooding, Dyson, Gillespie, English (Thompson), Wallace, Hateley, Blair, Hutchison.

Liverpool: Clemence; Neal, Kennedy (A), Thompson, Kennedy (R), Hansen, Dalglish, Case (Heighway), Johnson, McDermott,

C. PALACE (1) 1 (Flanagan) WOLVES (0) 0

C. Palace: Burridge; Hinshelwood, Cannon, Boyle, Gilbert, Kember, Murphy, Fenwick, Walsh, Flanagan, Hilaire (Swindlehurst). Wolves: Bradshaw; Palmer, Parkin, Berry, McAlle, Daniel, Hughes, Carr, Thomas, Gray, Richards.

LEICESTER (0) 1 (Strickland) Notts Co: Leonard; Benjamin, O'Brien, Hunt, Stubbs, Blockley, Doherty, Masson, Christie (Kilcline), Hooks, Mair.

Leicester: Wallington; Goodwin, Welsh, Kelly, May, O'Neill, Lineker, Strickland (Buchanan), Young, Wilson, Smith.

SHREWSBURY (1) 1 (Dungworth) CARDIFF (0) 2 (Buchanan, Moore) 6,870 Shrewsbury: Wardle; King, Leonard, Turner, Chapman, Keay, Cross, Tong, Biggins, Dung-

worth, Maguire. Cardiff: Healey; Dwyer, Sullivan, Campbell, Pontin, Thomas, Lewis, Bishop, Moore, Grapes (Stevens), Buchanan.

WATFORD (0) 0

BRISTOL R (0) 0 12.020 Watford: Steele; Henderson, Harrison, Patching, Sims, Bolton, Booth (Blissett), Poskett, Ward, Train, Rostron.

Bristol R: Thomas, Jones, Cooper, Prince,

Terry Connor scores for Leeds United against Nottingham Forest

LEEDS (1) 1 (Connor) NOTTM FOREST (1) 2 (Birtles, Francis) 29,816

Leeds: Lukic; Stevenson, Hamson, Greenhoff, Madeley, Gray, Hird, Connor, Entwistle (Graham), Hampton.

Nottm Forest: Shilton; Anderson, Gray, McGovern, Lloyd, Needham, Francis, George, Birtles, Robertson, Bowles,

SOUTHAMPTON (1) 4 (Channon, Ball, Watson, Moran)

MAN. CITY (0) 1 (Power) 21,422 Southampton: Wells; Golac (Moran), Waldron, Baker, Watson, Nicholl, Ball, Boyer, Channon,

Man. City: Corrigan; Ranson, Donachie, Reid, Caton, Booth, Power, Daley, Robinson, Viljoen /Palmer), Lee.

EVERTON v STOKE; MAN. UTD v ASTON VILLA; NORWICH v MIDDLESBROUGH; W.B.A. v BOLTON postponed.

Second Division

CAMBRIDGE (1) 3 (Finney, Fallon, SUNDERLAND (1) 3 (Marangoni, Brown,

Cummins) 7,107 Cambridge: Webster; Turner, Smith, Stringer, Fallon, O'Neill, Christie, Spriggs, Finney, Gib-

Fallon, U Nelli, Christie, Spriggs, Finney, Glo-bins, Murray (Garner). Sunderland: Siddall; Whitworth, Bolton, Clarke, Elliott, Cummins, Arnott, Marangoni, Brown, Robson, Dunn.

FULHAM (0) 0

Q.P.R. (1) 2 (Waddock, Burke) Fulham: Peyton; Peters, Strong, Money, Banton, Gale, Gayle, Beck, Davies, Maybank,

Q.P.R: Woods; Shanks, Gillard (Wallace), McCreery, Wicks, Roeder, Goddard, Waddock, Allen, Currie, Burke.

NEWCASTLE (0) 2 (Barton, Connolly) Tottenham: Daines; Hughton, Miller, Yorath, McAllister, Perryman, Ardiles, Taylor (Pratt), Armstrong, Hoddle, Villa.

BRISTOL C (0) 0

IPSWICH (1) 3 (Gates, Brazil, Mariner) 14,218

Moores, Chiedozie, Hughton, Jennings, Marwards (Chied Control of Contro

gerrison (Godfrey), Coates.

Taylor, Aitken, Barrowclough, Williams, Penny,

WEST HAM (0) 2 (Stewart pen., Allen) PRESTON (0) 0 17,603
West Ham: Parkes; Lampard, Brush, Stewart,
Martin, Bonds (Banton), Neighbour, Allen,

Pike, Pearson, Devonshire.

Preston: Tunks; Taylor, McAteer, Doyle, Anderson, O'Riordan, Bell, Haslegrave, Elliott, McGee (Coleman), Bruce.

WREXHAM (1) 3 (Jones, McNeil, Vinter

pen.)
CHARLTON (2) 2 (Ostergaard, Robin-

Wrexham: Davies; Darracott, Kenworthy, Davis, Jones, Fox, Vinter, Sutton, Edwards, McNeil, Carrodus. Charlton: Wood; Shaw, Madden, Tydeman,

Berry, Hazell, Jacobsen, Ostergaard, Robinson, Walker, Gritt.

BIRMINGHAM v CHELSEA; OLDHAM v BURN-LEY postponed.

Third Division

BLACKBURN (1) 3 (Crawford, McKenzie,

WIMBLEDON (0) 0 Blackburn: Arnold; Rathbone, Branagan, Metcalfe, Keeley, Fazackerley (Round), Brotherston, McKenzie, Garner, Crawford, Kendali. Wimbledon: Goddard; Jones, Briley, Galliers,

Smith, Cunningham, Dziadulewicz, Parsons, Leslie, Denny, Lewington.

BRENTFORD (0) 2 (Phillips, Holmes, L.) SHEFF. WED (1) 2 (Hornsby, Mellor)

8,390 Brentford: Bond; Shrubb, Tucker, Salmon, Harding, Fraser, Carlton, Graham (Booker), Holmes (L.), Allder, Phillips.

Sheff. Wed: Bolder, Blackhall, Grant, Smith, Pickering, Hornsby, King (Sterland), Johnson, Mellor, McCulloch, Curran.

BURY (3) 3 (Whitehead, McIlwraith, Johnson)

Bury: Forrest; Constantine, Kennedy, Halford (Madden), Waddington, Whitehead, Lugg, Mullen, Johnson, McIlwraith, Hilton.

Exeter: Main; Hore, Mitchell, Hatch, Giles, Roberts (L.), Neville (Forbes), Rogers (P.), Bowker, Delve, Pullar.

GILLINGHAM (0) 1 (Westwood) CARLISLE (1) 1 (Beardsley) 5,106 Gillingham: Hillyard; Sharpe, Barker, Overton, Weatherly, Crabbe, Nicholl, Hughes, Price,

Westwood, Jolly (Richardson).
Carlisle: Swinburne; Hoolickin, Winstanley,
MacDonald, Ludlam, Parker, McVitie, Bonnyman, Bannon, Hamilton, Beardsley.

MILLWALL (3) 3 (Towner, Lyons 2) CHESTER (1) 1 (Coleman o.g.) - 5,270
Milwali: Jackson; Donaldson, Roberts,
Mehmet, Tagg, Blyth, Towner, Seasman,
Lyons, McKenna, Coleman.
Chester: Millington; Jeffries, Walker, Storton,
Cottam, Oakes, Sutcliffe, Jones (Fear), Rush,
Phillins Handerson

Phillips, Henderson,

PLYMOUTH (1) 1 (Cook) GRIMSBY (1) 1 (Cumming) 6,310
Plymouth: Crudgington; James, Harrison, Randell, Foster, Philipson-Masters, Hodges, Cooper, Sims, Bason, Cook. Grimsby: Batch; Stone, Moore (K), Waters,

Wiggington, Crombie, Brolly, Ford, Drinkell, Mitchell, Cumming (Kilmore). SHEFF. UTD (0) 1 (de Goey) HULL (0) 1 (Norrie) 14,960 Sheff.Utd: Richardson; Cutbush, Tibbott (Brown), Kenworthy, McPhail, Jones, de Goey,

Bourne, Busby, Charles, Flood. Hull: Blackburn; Nisbet, DeVries, Croft, Dobson, Haigh, Roberts, Marwood, Edwards, Norrie. Moss.

MANSFIELD v BARNSLEY; READING v OXFORD and SWINDON v ROTHERHAM post-

Fourth Division

HARTLEPOOL (0) 1 (Lawrence) 4,000 Darlington: Owers; Nattress, Cochrane, Ball, Craig, Smith (Hamilton), McLean, Charlton,

Stalker, Taylor, Walsh.
Hartlepool: Burleigh. Sweeney, Carr, Lawrence, Brooks, Ayre, Linacre, Houchen, Harding (Staff), Gorry, Hampton.

TORQUAY (2) 2 (Cooper, Murphy) DONCASTER (0) 2 (Lister, Bradley)

Torquay: Turner; Pethard, Ritchie, Wilson, Bourne, Sermanni, Davies (Lawrence), Coffill, Cooper, Twitchin, Murphy.

Doncaster: Peacock; Russell, Snodin, Lister,

Lally, Bradley, Dowd, Nimmo, Warboys, Little,

HALIFAX v NORTHAMPTON; LINCOLN BRADFORD; PETERBORO v YORK; PORT VALE v CREWE; SCUNTHORPE v ALDERSHOT; STOCKPORT v PORTSMOUTH; WALSALL v ROCHDALE and WIGAN v BOURNEMOUTH

Scottish Premier

CELTIC (0) 0

Aberdeen: Clark; Kennedy, Considine, McLeish, Gerner, Rougvie, Strachan, Archibald,

Hamilton, McMaster, Scanlon (Jarvie).
Celtic: Latchford; Sneddon, McGrain, Aitken, McDonald, McAdam, Provan, Sullivan, Lennox, MacLeod, Dovle.

MORTON (0) 1 (Holmes) KILMARNOCK (0) 2 (Clarke, Cramond)

Morton: Baines; Hayes, Holmes, Anderson, Orr, Miller, Mauchlen, Brown, Thomson, Hutchinson (Tolmie), Ritchie. Kilmarnock: McCulloch; Welsh, McLean,

Clark, Clarke, Armstrong, Houston, Maxwell, Gibson, Cramond, Street (Mauchien).

DUNDEE UTD v PARTICK, HIBS v ST MIRREN and RANGERS v DUNDEE postponed.

NE-UPS...RESULTS...SCORERS

Scottish First

CLYDEBANK (2) 5 (McCormack, Ronald, ARBROATH (0) 1 (Mylles)

HAMILTON (1) 1 (Alexander) RAITH (1) 1 (Forsyth) 1 802

MOTHERWELL (0) 0 HEARTS (0) 0 4.971

AYR v BERWICK: CLYDE v STIRLING: DUM-FERMLINE v DUMBARTON and ST. JOHN-STONE v AIRDRIE postponed.

Scottish Second

ALBION (1) 1 (Houston) COWDENBEATH (0) 0 BRECHIN (0) 1 (Henderson) MEADOWBANK (1) 1 (Jobson pen) 400 E. FIFE (1) 1 (Herd) STRANRAER (1) 1 (Inglis) 749 E. STIRLING (0) 0 Q of S (1) 1 (Alexander) 700 MONTROSE (0) 0 QUEENS PARK (1) 2 (Gillespie (J) 2, 1 STENHOUSEMUIR (0) 1 (Hancock) FORFAR (1) 5 (Mitchell 3, Clark 2)

Irish League

ALLOA v. FALKIRK postponed.

CLIFTONVILLE (1) 2 (McAteer, Mills) GLENAVON (0) 0

Cliftonville: Johnston; McGuicken, Largey, Quinn, Mills, McCurry, McCusker, McAteer, Adair, Hewitt, Holden.

Glenavon: Lennox; Davy, Quinn, Millen, Stitt, Donnelly, Denver, O'Kane, McGeown (McCann), Tully, Armstrong.

DISTILLERY (0) 1 (Cowden) LINFIELD (0) 2 (McKee, Dornan) Distillery: Smyth; Andrews, McGreevy, Keat-ley, McElhinney, McAuley, Kerr, Cowden, Richardson, McMinn, Coulter (Falloon).

Linfield: Dunlop; Garrett, Hayes, Jameson, Parks, McKeown, Nixon, McKee, Murray, Dornan. Anderson.

LARNE (0) 0

ARDS (1) 3 (Maxwell, Hewitt (pen), Gibson)

Larne: Willis; Wilson, Galway (Graham), McManus, Carlin, McAuley, Hardy, Clarke, Prenter, Clelland, Harvey. Ards: Craig; Walker, Cromie, Cullen (Welsh),

McCoy, Gibson, Hewitt, Martin, Foster, Alley,

PORTADOWN (1) 4 (Gardiner 2, Alexander (pen), Smith)
COLERAINE (1) 2 (Platt, McConachie)

Portadown: McColum; Smith, Edgar, Toplay, Kilburn, Cleary, Gordon, Gardiner, Alexander, Donegan, Quinn.

Coleraine: Magee: McDowell, Butcher, Beckett, Platt, McConachie, Mahon, Healey, Platt, Dickson, Moffett.

BANGOR v BALLYMENA: GLENTORAN v CRUSADERS, postponed.

Sunday, January 20

League of Ireland

BOHEMIANS (1) 1 (Eviston) LIMERICK UNITED (0) 0

Bohemians: Byren (W); Gregg, Nolan, Keogh, Brady, Kelly, McCormack, O'Riordan, Bryne (M), Lawless, Eviston.

Limerick Utd: Fitzpatrick; Ryan, O'Mahony, Hand, Fitzgerald, Nolan, Meaney (McDonnell), Walsh, Morris, Duggan, Matthews (Kennedy).

CORK UNITED (0) 0 HOME FARM (1) 1 (McCluskey)
Cork Utd: Ludzic; Punch, Brohan, O'Donovan, Sheehan, Keane, Nodwell, Neiland (Madden). McCarthy, Allen, Lane,

Home Farm: Finnerty; Maher, King, Breslin, Brady, Williams, Cervi, Neville, Thomas, Archbold, McCluskey.

FINN HARPS (2) 3 (McGroarty, Logan 2) WATERFORD (1) 1 (McCarthy) Finn Harps: McDermott; Ferry, Monagle, McDowell, Sheridan, Duffy, Logan, McCool (McLoughlin), McGrory, Minnock, McGroarty. **Waterford:** Thomas; O'Mahony, Gardiner, Finucane, Dunphy, Jackson, Murray (Keane), Madigan, Kirk, McCarthy, Carey.

GALWAY ROVERS (0) 0 DUNDALK (1) 2 (Bryne, Braddish) Galway Rovers: Lally; Daly, Murphy, Sheehan, McDaid, Nolan, Cooke (Quinlivan), Mannion,

Collins, Cassidy, Gaynor. Dundalk: Blackmore; McConville, Keely, Dunning, Lawlor, Devine, Flanagan, Braddish, Byrne, Duff, Muckian.

SHELBOURNE (0) 1 (Nugent) ST PATRICK'S ATH (1) 2 (Jameson 2) Shelbourne: Delahunt; Boyle, Kearney, Mc-Mahon, Cleary, Moody, Nugent, O'Brien (Mur-phy), Donnelly (Delamere), Byrne, Dillion. St Pat's Ath: Grace; Higgins, Daly, Hynes, Roche, Doyle, Wright, Carthy, Jameson, Barron, Kirwan

THURLES TOWN (0) 1 (Humphries) SHAMROCK ROVERS (1) 2 (Synnott, Gaffney)

Thurles Town: Dalton; Doran, McQuaid, Lyons, Tierney, Heffernan, Sheehy, Lawson, Steed-man (Jordan), Humphries, Jenkins. Shamrock Rovers: O'Neill, Kenny, Burke, Gan-

non, Synnott, O'Leary, Byrne, Campbell, Treacy, Gaffney, Buckley (Maher).

UCD (0) 1 (Moran (pen))

SLIGO ROVERS (0) 0
UCD: McCabe; McKeown, Fox, Deeney,
McDonnell, McGovern, Cassidy, Moran, Drury, Dignam, Murphy.

Sligo Rovers: Patterson; Fielding, Rutherford, O'Doherty (G), Fagan, Stenson, Sheridan, Patton, Bradley, O'Doherty (D), Hulmes

DROGHEDA UNITED v ATHLONE TOWN. Post-

Monday, January 21

F.A. Cup

(Third Round replay)

BURY (1) 3 (Johnson 2, Wilson) ROCHDALE (2) 2 (Scaife) 8 082 Bury: Forrest; Constantine, Kennedy, Mc-Ilwraith, Whitehead, Waddington, Mullen, Wil-

son, Johnson, Hilton, Halford. Rochdale: Watson; Hart, Snookes, O'Loughlin, Bannon, Weir, Esser, Wann (Jones), Seal, Scaife, Hilditch

Fourth Division

STOCKPORT (0) 1 (Henson) PETERBOROUGH (0) 0

Stockport: Lawson; Thorpe, Sherlock, Henson, Bradd, Czuczman, Williams, Prudham, Sword, Chapman (Rutter), Coyle.

Peterborough: Waugh; Carmichael, Phillips, Guy, Slough, Foster, Quow, Kellock (Robson), Cliss, Syrett, Cassells,

Tuesday, January 22

League Cup

(Semi-Finals first-leg)

NOTTM FOREST (0) 1 (Robertson pen.) LIVERPOOL (0) 0 32,234

Nottm Forest: Shilton; Anderson, Gray, McGovern, Lloyd, O'Neill, Bowyer, Birtles, Francis, Robertson. Liverpool: Clemence; Neal, Kennedy (A), Thompson, Kennedy (R), Hansen, Dalglish, Case, Johnson, McDermott, Souness. SWINDON (1) 2 (Rowland, Mayes) WOLVES (1) 1 (Daniel) 26,000 Swindon: Allan; Lewis, Stroud, McHale, Tucker, Carter, Miller, Kamara, Rowland,

Mayes, Williams. Wolves: Bradshaw; Palmer, Parkin, Daniel Arsenal: Jennings; Rice, Nelson, Talbot, O'Leary, Young, Brady, Sunderland, Stapleton, Price, Rix.

Brighton: Moseley; Stevens, Williams, Horton, Foster, Suddaby, Ryan, Ward, Clarke, Lawrenson, O'Sullivan (Saver),



Swindon players (dark shirts) turn in triumph as Andy Rowland scores his sida's first goal against Wolves in the League Cup.

McAlle, Berry, Hibbitt, Carr, Gray, Richards, **Thomas**

League of Ireland

THURLES TOWN (0) 0 DUNDALK (2) 2 (McConville, Dun-

Thurles Town: Dalton; Doran, McQuaid, Lyons, Tierney, O'Brien, Heffernan, Lawson, Hum-Steedman, Jenkins.

Dundalk: Blackmore; McConville, Dunning, Keely, Lawlor, Flanagan, Devine, Byrne (Daly),

Wednesday, Jan 23

League of Ireland

SHELBOURNE (0) 1 (O'Brien) FINN HARPS (0) 2 (Minnock, McCrory) Shelbourne: Condron; Boyle, Carney, McMahon (Murphy), Cleary, Moo O'Dwyer, O'Brien, Byrne, Dillon. Moody,

Finn Harps: McDermott; Ferry, Monagle, McDowell, Sheridan, Duffy, Logan, McLoughlin (McElwaine), McGrory, Minnock, McGroarty.

Irish League

BANGOR (1) 2 (McCoubrey, Rollins) BALLYMENA (2) 3 (Beattie, Sloan, Bangor: Nicholson; Feeney, McKim, Radcliffe, Bowden, Cummings, Lennox (Barrett), Mc-Loughlin, Rollins, McCoubrey, Duddy. Ballymena: White; Beattie, Worthington, McQuillan, Jackson, McCall, Mullan (P), Sloan, Mullan (G), Malone, Neill (Scott).

Friday, January 25

Third Division

SOUTHEND (1) 3 (Gray, Spence, Parker) HULL (0) ò Southend: Cawston; Moody, Yates, Hadley, Cusack, Otulakowski, Gray, Pountney, Parker, Spence, Stead.

Hull: Blackburn; Nisbet, De Vries, Croft, Dobson, Haigh, Roberts, Marwood, Edwards, Nor-

Fourth Division

TRANMERE (2) 5 (Kelly 2, Beamish,

ROCHDALE (0) 1 (Esser pen.) Tranmere: Johnson; Parry, Flood, Bramhall, Edwards, Evans, Mungall, Craven, Kelly, Beamish, Peplow (Mathias).

Rochdale: Watson; Bannon, Snookes, O'Loughlin, Waldron, Taylor, Esser, Wann (Hart), Seal, Scaife, Hilditch.

F.A. Cup

(Fourth Round)

ARSENAL (1) 2 (Nelson, Talbot) BRIGHTON (0) 0

BIRMINGHAM (1) 2 (Gemmill pen., Bertschin)

MIDDLESBROUGH (0) 1 (Hodgson)

Birmingham: Wealands; Lees, Broadhurst,

Curbishley (Lynex), Gallagher, Todd, Ainscow, Worthington, Bertschin, Gemmill, Johnston. Middlesbrough: Platt; Craggs, Johnson, Hedley, Ashcroft, McAndrew, Cochrane, Proctor, Hodgson, Jankovic (Burns), Armstrong.

BLACKBURN (1) 1 (Crawford)

COVENTRY (0) 0 20 785 Blackburn: Arnold; Branagan, Rathbone, Kendall, Keeley, Fazackerley, Brotherston, Craw-

ford, Garner, McKenzie, Parkes. Coventry: Blyth; Coop, McDonald, Gooding, Dyson, Gillespie, English, Wallace, Hateley, Blair, Hutchison

BOLTON (1) 2 (Greaves, Whatmore) 21,085 HALIFAX (0) 0 HALIFAX (0) 0 21,085 Bolton: McDonagh; Nicholson, Burke, Greaves, Allardyce, Walsh, Morgan, What-more, Carter, McNab, Reid.

Halifax: Kilner; Dunleavy, Hutt, Evans, Good-man, Hendrie, Firth, Kennedy, Burke, Smith,

BRISTOL C (1) 1 (Whitehead)
IPSWICH (1) 2 (Wark, Mariner) 19,608
Bristol C: Shaw; Tainton, Whitehead, Gow, Rodgers, Merrick (Doyle), Pritchard, Fitzpatrick, Mabbutt, Sweeney, Garland.

Ipswich: Cooper; Burley, Mills, Thijssen, Osman, Butcher, Wark, Muhren, Mariner, Brazil, Sates

BURY (1) 1 (Whitehead)
BURNLEY (0) 0 20,000
Bury: Forrest; Constantine, Kennedy, McIlwraith, Whitehead, Waddington, Mullen, Wilson, Johnson, Hilton, Halford.

Burnley: Stevenson; Scott, Brennan, Burke, Overson (V), Rodaway, James, Dobson, Hamilton, Young (Cavener), Smith.

CAMBRIDGE (1) 1 (Turner)

ASTON VILLA (1) 1 (Donovan) Cambridge: Webster; Turner, Smith, Stringer, Fallon, O'Neill, Christie (Murray), Spriggs, Finney, Gibbins, Reilly.

Aston Villa: Rimmer; Swain, Gibson, Evans, McNaught, Mortimer, Bremner, Little, Donovan. Cowans. Shaw.

CARLISLE (0) 0 WREXHAM (0) 0

13,136 Carlisle: Swinburne; Hoolickin, Winstanley, MacDonald, Ludlam, Parker, McVitie, Bonnyman, Beardsley, Hamilton, Staniforth.

Wrexham: Davies; Darracott, Kenworthy, Davis, Jones, Fox, Vinter (Buxton), Sutton, Edwards, Hill, Carrodus.

Continued next week

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Write your name and address TWICE in capitals, in ink, in the spaces provided.

If you wish to enter the competition, just tell us, in the space provided, in not more than 20 words, what you consider the most important qualities needed for a top League player.

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| WHAT I THINK ARE THE MOST IMPO | RTANT QUALITIES NEEDED BY A TOP PLAYER |
| | |

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HERE is a great deal of football action and drama to be played before the end of the season, but my friends in the sportswriting Press tell me they are thinking about who will succeed Andy Ritchie as Player of the Year.

It was one of my proudest moments when I received the Scottish Football Writers' Association award three years ago, the 13th presentation.

It has been an impressive list and although John Greig is the only player to have won it twice, Billy McNeill was the first winner back in 1964-65 and he was followed later by Celts Ronnie Simpson, Bobby Murdoch and George

Connelly.
Pat Stanton, who was to become another Parkhead idol, 1969-70, but he lifted the award in 1969-70, but he was still with Hibs then. Stanton. Gordon Wallace of Raith Rovers,

he might outlast even the youngest players at Celtic now! He played a leading role in helping to beat Real Madrid 2-0.

Away from our own club, the leading candidate to me would seem to be Partick Thistle's Alan Rough who has come so close in recent years without actually picking up the award.

Ronnie Simpson is the only goal-keeper to have won the trophy and it is obviously difficult for a 'keeper to do so because he has fewer chances to impress and is not in the game for anything like the 90



minutes.

Alan has had a tremendous season yet again and I think he would be a very popular choice among journalists and players alike. And it would also be one in the teeth for the English Press and television people who continually criticise him at international level without seeing him in action for Thistle from week to week.

Other candidates? Well, no offence to big Andy Ritchie, but he has not had the season this time that he had last and I feel retaining his award may well be beyond

But St Mirren have one or two likely lads in goalkeeper Billy Thomson, sweeper Jackie Copland and skipper Jimmy Bone, another ex-Celtic player and like Bobby Lennox something of a Peter Pan character.

Leading contenders from the

East coast include Paul Sturrock of Dundee United land Steve Archibald of Aberdeen.

Both have been the subject of big deal transfer enquiries from South but so far managers Jim McLean and Alex Ferguson have shunned the temptation of the big cheque . . . and that can only be a great thing for Scottish football.

Talking of transfers, I was interested in the quotes attributed to Rangers manager John Greig after Ian Redford, his £210,000 buy from Dundee had played his first game for his new club - against Morton at Ibrox.

John commented that lan had found a big difference playing-for the Old Firm to playing for another club . . . and I couldn't agree more.

It is much easier to play when you are trying to contain 'the opposition because they are coming at you all the time and you

Parkhead's Peter Pan could be Player of the Year'

Martin Buchan and Ritchie are the only non-Old Firm stars to have won although back in '74 the writers withheld the award from any one player and instead saluted Scotland's World Cup squad. Just for the record the Rangers

players who have won it are Greig (twice), Dave Smith - now manager of Berwick Rangers - Sandy Jardine and Derek Johnstone.

So it is time for the great guessing game again. Never mind the battle for Presidency of the United States, who is leading the polls in the great Player of the Year election.

I suppose the favourite must be Parkhead team-mate Davie Provan who really has had a marvellous time since signing from Kilmarnock . . . but it is far from being a one horse race.

He will be pushed hard by fellow Celt Roy Aitken who is only a whisker away from becoming a Scotland regular and has had quite a season with his onfield activities and his wedding last month.

And if there is one other Celt who might just be a tremendously popular choice it is Parkhead's Peter Pan', Bobby Lennox, who, at 37, seems to be the eternal teenager.

The Lemon' is the last of the Lisbon Lions, that great team who won the European Cup back in 1967, but the way things are going



don't need to make the effort of

going out and looking for them.
Both Rangers and Celtic always have to attack no matter where or who we are playing and that means being involved in the action all the time and consequently more hard work.

That is no insult to Dundee or any other provincial club for that matter . . . but just ask any player who has signed for the Old Firm and they will confirm it as a fact of

Finally had things gone differently who is to say that George Best would not have been in line for that football writers' award. Obviously his walkout before his subsequent return to Hibs ruled out any faint chance he had . but in my next Tartan Talk I will be giving my opinion on the whole Georgie Best affair with a look at both sides of the story.

See you in two weeks

NEXT WEEK'S TARTAN TALK BY RANGERS' DEREK JOHNSTONE







Bobby Lennox, going strong at 37.





TERRY Cochrane is one of the most exciting players Middlesbrough fans have seen for years.

He's a fast, skilful winger who can take his full-back on the inside or outside.

And he says: "I think the Ayresome Park public are ready for a bit of individualism. I'm here to provide it.

COCHRANE HOPES FOR A RECALL

"I don't consider myself an orthodox winger because I don't have to go past the full-back on the outside. I go whichever way suits me at the time.

"Basically, my job is to make or score goals — whichever way I do it."

As a kid, Cochrane used to drool over the talents of George Best, but he's quick to deny that he copied his hero.

copied his hero.
"I think every individual kind of player has his own style. It's no use copying someone else."

Cochrane cost Middlesbrough £210,000 when they bought him from Burnley in 1978, but last season, he spent much of the time on the sidelines.

ANE
FOR
ALL

"When I went to Burnley from Coleraine in 1976. I suffered a lot of "I realise now I shouldn't have."

"When I went to Burnley from Coleraine in 1976, I suffered a lot of groin trouble. I was 23 then and had never played full time football, so it was a big adjustment. I think that is what caused the groin trouble.

"The problem recurred last season but having cost so much

"I realise now I shouldn't have. I wasn't doing myself any good by playing because I got a lot of criticism from people who didn't realise the pain I was in.
"At times, it was so bad that I

"At times, it was so bad that I had to have a bath at half-time to ease the pain. I also had to do a lot

of exercises before the game so as to warm myself up properly. Otherwise, there was no point my going on to the pitch."

Cochrane is now hoping for a recall to the Northern Ireland squad for the forthcoming game in Israel.

He was a regular until he squared up to his own team-mate Gerry Armstrong during the game against England last year.

"Danny Blanchflower didn't speak to me after that incident but it takes two to make a fight. Gerry didn't get penalised for what happened, but I was dropped from the squad.

"Now that Danny has gone, I hope I can make a fresh start. The way I have been playing, I would hope that they can't afford to leave me out of the team."

Cochrane's other ambition is to win something with Middlesbrough, so often overshadowed by their North-East neighbours Newcastle and Sunderland.

"We're not a big club in the



mould of Arsenal or Manchester United, but we're improving all the

"We have shown this season that we can live with the best and hopefully, we can prove that beyond doubt soon by picking up a trophy. It is about time we shook off our unfashionable image."





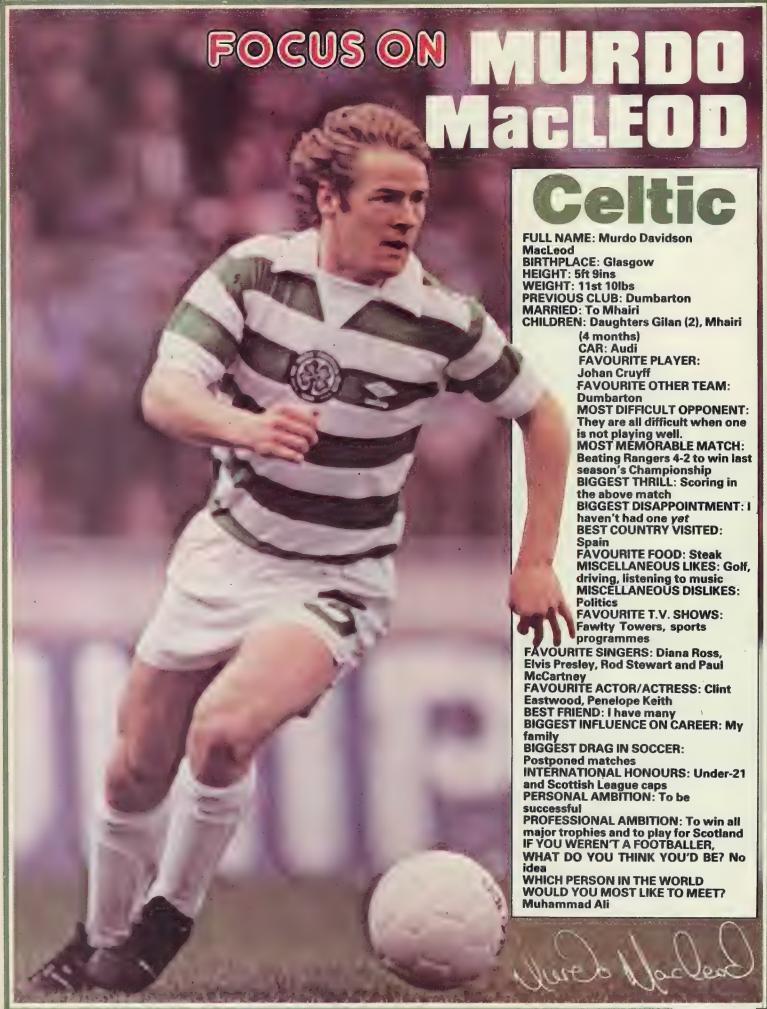
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KEEGAN'S ENGLAND APPEARANCES

1972/73 1. Wales (Cardiff) 1-0 2. Wales (Wembley) 1-1

Water (Cardiff) 2-0, 1 goal
N. Ireland (Wembley) 1-0
Argentina (Wembley) 2-2
East Germany (Leipzig) 1-1
Bulgaria (Sofia) 1-0
Yugoslavia (Belgrade) 2-2, 1 goal

47/5
Czechoslovakia (Wembley) 3-0
West Germany (Wembley) 2-0
Cyprus (Wembley) 5-0
Cyprus (Limassol) 1-0, 1 goal
N. Ireland (Belfast) 0-0
Scotland (Wembley) 5-1

Rep. Ireland (Wembley) 1-1
Finland (Wembley) 2-1
Italy (Rome) 0-2
Holland (Wembley) 0-2
Luxembourg (Wembley) 5-0, 1 goal
Wales (Wembley) 0-1
Brazil (Rio) 0-0
Armentine (Puesco Airel) 4.4

15. Switzerland (Basle) 2-1, 1 goal 16. Czechoslovakia (Bratislava) 1-2 17. Portugal (Lisbon) 1-1 18. Wales (Wrexham) 2-1 19. Wales (Cardiff) 1-0

N. Ireland (Wembley) 4-0 Scotland (Hampden) 1-2 Brazil (Los Angeles) 0-1 Finland (Helsinki) 4-1, 2 goals

Argentina (Buenos Aires) 1-1 Uruguay (Montevideo) 0-0

33. Switzerland (Wembley) 0-0

33. Witzerland (Wembley) 3-0, 1 goal 34. Italy (Wembley) 2-0, 1 goal 35. West Germany (Munich) 1-2 36. Brazil (Wembley) 1-1, 1 goal 37. Hungary (Wembley) 4-1

38. Denmark (Copenhagen) 4-3, 2 goals 39. Rep. Ireland (Dublin) 1-1 40. Czechoslovakia (Wembley) 1-0 41. N. Ireland (Wembley) 4-0, 1 goal. 42. Wales (Wembley) 0-0

43. Scotland (Wembley) 3-1, 1 goal. 44. Bulgaria (Sofia) 3-0, 1 goal 45. Sweden (Stockholm) 0-0 46. Austria (Vienna) 3-4, 1 goal

47. Denmark (Wembley) 1-0, 1 goal 48. N. Ireland (Belfast) 5-1 49. Rep. Ireland (Wembley) 2-0, 2 goals

Camp Stadium next week, he will become the 12th English player to win 50 full international caps. It is yet another well-deserved honour for the 29 year-old-star and as his return to the Football League next season will mean he is available for every game, chances are Kevin will win around 25 more caps during his two-year contract with

WHEN Kevin Kegan leads out England in Barcelona's Nou

ing his two-year contract with Southampton.
Keegan's England career spans three managers: Sir Alf Ramsey, Don Revie and Ron Greenwood, plus Joe Mercer, who was caretaker-manager for a short spell in between Ramsey and Revie.
Under Sir Alf, Keegan's career was slow taking off. More often than not he found himself on the sub's bench and he became frustrated as England went on tour and he didn't get a game. Keegan won just two caps during the Ramwon just two caps during the Ram-sey reign, both in World Cup-ties against Wales. In fact, Kevin's first three caps were all against the same country, a record surely un-

equalled by anyone.

When 'Uncle' Joe Mercer took over following Sir Alf's dismissal, Keegan got his chance, playing in the British Championship, the Wembley friendly against Argentina and all three Eastern European tour games.

It was in Yugoslavia that Kevin was allegedly beaten up by police following an incident at the airport, but he answered this in the best possible way by scoring a goal in Belgrade.

Revie picked Keegan regularly, although he was shuffled between midfield and attack. By 1974/75 Keegan was established in the England side, even though he had only won a dozen caps. England, under Revie, didn't have a set formation with former leads from mation — the former Leeds man-ager invariably changed his team and the tactics after every game, which made any blend or pattern Keegan's career at both club and

international level took off follow-ing his 1977 transfer to Hamburger SV. With Liverpool he was a very SV. With Liverpool he was a very good player; the experience of the Bundesliga has made him a truly great one. Now, an England team without Keegan is unthinkable and Ron Greenwood has been fortu-nate that Kevin has been available for almost all of the games during

his reign.
It isn't easy to pick Keegan's best game for England as he has played so consistently well over the past few years for his country. What we can say, with absolute confidence, is that there will be many more outstanding performances from Keegan, starting in Barcelona next week

Congratulations, Kevin — here's to the next 50!

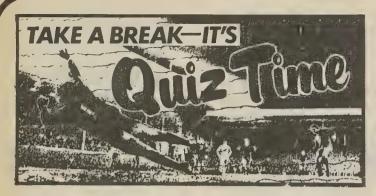


Joy for Keegan in his international debut for England against Wales in November, 1972.

BOBBY MOORE

OTHER MEMBER'S OF ENGLAND'S '50 CLUB'

| Alan Ball |
|--|
| Gordon Banks73 |
| Bobby Charlton |
| Tom Finney76 |
| Jimmy Greaves 57 |
| Johnny Haynes |
| Emlyn Hughes 59 |
| Bobby Moore |
| Martin Peters 67 |
| Ray Wilson63 |
| Billy Wright |
| The state of the s |



- 1. Manchester United suffered their worst League defeat for years when they were hammered 6-0 by Ipswich Town at Portman Road. (a) Who was Ipswich's hero with a hat-trick and (b) how many penalties did United 'keeper Gary Bailey save?
- 2. Full-back David Peach (below) was recently transferred from Southampton to which Third Division club?

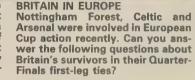


- 3. Why was George Best substituted in the second-half of Hibernian's Premier Division clash with Rangers at Ibrox on March 1st?
- 4. True or false? Blackpool's new player-manager Alan Ball began his League career with Bury?
- 5. Which Aston Villa defender was sent-off against Brighton recently shortly after scoring their goal in the 1-1 draw at the Goldstone Ground?

- 6. How many Arsenal players were included in the Republic of Ireland squad for the World Cup qualifying game against Cyprus?
- 7. Three, four or five players were booked during Liverpool's 2-1 win against Everton at Goodison Park recently?
- 8. In his last game for York City this season before returning to Toronto Blizzard, which former Scotland international was sent-off against Tranmere?
- 9. Dennis Tueart, making his second debut following his transfer from the Cosmos, helped Manchester City gain a 0-0, 1-1 or 2-2 draw with Stoke City, Norwich City or Nottingham Forest?
- 10. On March 1st, Charlton Athletic gained a fine 4-0 win against Bristol Rovers at The Valley. What was so significant about their victory?
- 11. England Under-21 side progressed to the Under-21 European Championship Semi-Finals when they beat Scotland at Aberdeen recently. What was the aggregate score?
- 12. Bolton's shock 1-0 win against Nottingham Forest recently was their second, third or fourth League victory this season?
- 13. If Billy Thomson saved a penalty from Steve Archibald in a Scottish Premier Division game . . . which two clubs would be in opposition?
- 14. Belgian international Roger Van Gool was transferred recently from FC Cologne to which English First Division club for around £275,000?



15. Crystal Palace goalkeeper John Burridge (below) missed his first game for two years recently when a shoulder injury kept him out of the game against Bristol City at Ashton Gate. Was his understudy for that match David, Derek or Donald Fry?



- 16. Forest were beaten by which East German club 0-1?
- 17. Where was the game played?
- 18. Still in the European Cup, Celtic entertained Real Madrid at Parkhead. Did the Scottish Champions win 1-0, 2-0 or 2-1?
- 19. In the Cup-Winners' Cup, Arsenal took a giant step towards the Semi-Finals when they beat Gothenburg 5-1 at Highbury (above). Which country do The Gunners' opponents come from?
- 20. Who scored the London club's five goals?



ANSWERS:

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- Lou Macari's claim that he is no traitor . .
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- Why Jim Platt (left) contemplated quitting the game . . .
- The history of Norwich City . . .
- The controversy surrounding physical contact . . .
- John Deehan's inter-city transfer . . .
- What is rotten in the Russian game . . .
- The positional switch which switched on Clive Walker . . .
- Why no caps are sometimes better than one . . .
- The class and consistency of Eddie Gray . . .

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WE MUSTAL WHATEVER our fate in Berlin after Wednesday's crucial

European Cup Quarter-Final second leg tie against Dynamo, no team has ever been more motivated than Nottingham Forest. We have been stung by some remarks made this month, not least by our manager Brian Clough, who even began to doubt his powers of motivating his players.

The boss has said that he takes the credit when things go well, so he must expect criticism when we lose.

My own view is that players should accept more responsibility when a team does badly. We must all share the blame. Once you go out on the field the manager's authority ends. It's up to the players
... only they can get the team out of trouble.

The manager was so angry after our 1-0 defeat at Bolton that he ordered the entire first team squad to report to the City Ground on the Sunday morning after the match.

Following the training session, we had a two hour 'discussion' about tactics and why we lost. The inquest became quite heated at times as we talked about attitudes and Brian Clough reminded us how important it is for players to have the right mental approach to games.

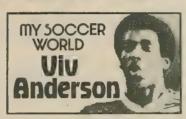
He's right, of course. At Forest every match is treated the same. Whether it's against bottom of the table Bolton or top of the League Liverpool, we go out to win every

But it's extremely difficult to motivate yourself to fever pitch when playing against struggling teams, especially on their own grounds.

Usually the crowds are low, so

there's very little atmosphere and excitement. There's a distinct air of gloom and despair about when visiting clubs in trouble.

I must admit Bolton were the exception. Only a miracle can save them from relegation now, but I saw no dropped heads. They played



like demons, as do most clubs when they come up against the European Champions.

Like Liverpool, Forest is a mighty big scalp for clubs, especially ones as desperate as Bolton. It's their chance to salvage some lost pride.

I suppose they had nothing to lose by going out and enjoying themselves against us.

Generally, I prefer playing the Liverpools. The tougher the opposition the bigger the tension and atmosphere.

Players are only human and obvi-





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Neil Whatmore (above, left) turns in triumph after scoring the only goal for Bolton against Forest. Now the European Champions must lift their game for the visit of Southampton (below).

ously get more keyed up and excited at the prospect of playing at Antield as opposed to say Burnden Park.

A friend asked me recently if I tackle harder or play better against the top teams and take it easy against the strugglers.

Of course I don't. As I've said Brian Clough ensures we approach each match as if it were a Cup Final.

I feel sorry for Bolton, though. I understand they've played pretty well at times this season without getting the breaks. That's how it goes when you're down.

Miracle

Luck plays an important part in success — and failure. If you are on top of your form every shot at goal appears to go in. When you aren't firing on all cylinders those same shots will go wide or be stopped by miracle saves from the 'keeper.

Look at Forest a few months ago when we lost six away games on the trot.

That was the worst run I've experienced since Brian Clough took over as manager.

took over as manager.

I was worried, but remained optimistic. Before each game I said to myself: "This is it . . . the turning point. We'll win this one."

But the losing streak went on and on until we beat Coventry City 3-0 at

defeat in detail and analyse what

went wrong.

I don't know how other clubs operate under similar circumstances but Forest carry on as normal.

Some managers panic and make wholesale team changes, or buy new players in an attempt to change their luck.

Brian Clough and Peter Taylor were tremendous during our disastrous run and encouraged us.

They said we weren't playing badly as a team and should have won or at least drawn half the

Brian Clough and Peter Taylor were great during their disastrous run.

Ron has completely restructured the set-up . . . got down to the grassroots . . . established a tremendous and well-balanced squad . . re-introduced the 'B' internationals.

We have been successful over the past year or so simply because of Ron's influence. Players will play for him, it's as simple as that.

Lawrie McMenemy is another good manager. Forest face his Southampton side at the City Ground this Saturday (March 22nd).

They beat us 4-1 at The Dell in November, which was right in the middle of our bad run, and were well worth that overwhelming victory.

Forest want revenge badly for that defeat . . . and we'll get it.

Kevin Keegan will make Saints a real force next season. They say one man doesn't make a team. But Kev goes a long way to contradict that theory.

Struggled

I recall watching Hamburger SV in action during a pre-season tour a couple of years ago.

Kevin wasn't playing that day and they struggld for a 0-0 draw.

He came back for Hamburger's next game and they looked a different side and won well. I'm sure he'll have the same affect on Saints.

Key will be in action for England against Spain next Wednesday. I also hope to be playing.

also hope to be playing.

Spain won't be at full strength in Barcelona — the scene of Forest's European Super Cup triumph — for fear of giving away European Championship secrets.

But it's a game both sides will still want to win. Apart from the prestige, the psychological advantage could prove vital in Italy during June.

The way England and Kevin Keegan are playing at the moment I certainly can't see us losing to Spain.

Until next time . . .



Highfield Road on December 29th.

Fortunately that bad spell didn't have an adverse affect on team spirit. There were no real arguments in the dressing room, no bad feeling.

We were all concerned about the situation, but didn't get too depressed. There are too many cheerful characters at the club for that.

Some players do over-react to these set-backs and are moody, illtempered and generally make life unpleasant for other people.

The only time it really affects me is when friends want to discuss

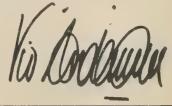
games we lost. Our trouble was mainly due to individual mistakes.

When a team goes through these shaky spells, it's usually the poor manager who bears the brunt of the blame.

These situations quickly sort out the good managers from the bad.

Those with the right sort of personality and character will motivate and lift their side...men like Brian Clough and Ron Greenwood.

Under Don Revie England were going nowhere fast. Now there's no limit to what we can achieve at international level. Other nations are looking to us for the lead again.



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EVRILLE SIGNS

World Cup dream.
That's why the burly, bustling
West Brom and England Under-21
striker has decided to stay at The Hawthorns rather than pick up a

fat Continental pay cheque.
The 22-year-old, who started his career with Isthmian League side Hayes before Albion plucked him from obscurity in a £5,000 deal three years ago, was expected to follow his mate Laurie Cunning-ham into Europe.

But while the England winger has become a Real Madrid super-

star, Regis has plumped for a new three-year contract at homely Albion.

Gamble

He has decided on a country before cash gamble, foresaking a possible fortune in the hope he will team up with Cunningham again — in England's World Cup team for

— in England's World Cup team for Spain in 1982.

He said: "Ever since I was a kid, my ambition has been to play for England, and I have put that dream above everything else.

"I know that if I had decided to have Alkien I had decided to

leave Albion I would have received big money offers from the Conti-nent. But I was afraid that by leaving the country before making the full England side I might have been ignored by Ron Greenwood.

"Remember that Laurie, Kevin Keegan and Tony Woodcock were all established at the top level before going abroad."

'Who knows what might hapen after my new contract expires

be with Albion. They have been good to me and I have more chance of making the England side by staying at The Hawthorns."

Explosive, exciting Regis is now heading back to the form that brought a £750,000 offer from Marseilles 18 months ago. And like Keegan, who is coming home to be part of England's optimistic start to the 80's, he believes international success is just around the national success is just around the corner.

"It would be great to be part of Ron Greenwood's squad. Which is why I'm taking no chances by leaving this country before Spain 1982."

This season started disastrously This season started disastrously for Regis with a cartilage operation which sidelined him for three months. But with the goals now flowing again, Regis is hurtling towards full international recognition again and the chance to renew his front-line partnership with Cupplicable. with Cunningham:

"Laurie and I were good friends at Albion, and I was sorry to see him go. Peter Barnes has done a great job as his replacement and I fully expect to see us up there battling for honours again next

season.
"I met Laurie after the England-Eire match and we had a long chat. He's loving it in Madrid and he has

a great lifestyle. "But I'm quite happy to stay with West Brom. It's England for me. I just hope my dreams come true and Laurie and I get back in the same side again as fellow international players in Spain."

KEITH Bertschin's goal in life is to play for England. "If you don't want to represent your country, then you might as well pack the game in," says the Birmingham City striker. "But I haven't forgotten or disregarded the foolhardiness of trying to look to the future." the future.

"To make plans is like putting your head on the chopping block. I should know, because I've learned

the hard way."
Keith's lesson in crystal ball gazing came after the end of 1977-78,
his first season at Birmingham. "I was an ever-present, a member of the England Under-21 side and I was really looking forward to the

next season.
"Within four games I'd broken a
leg and three weeks after getting
over my first fracture, I'd snapped
the other one. Now I just play from

the other one. Now I just play from week to week.
"During the summer I went to South Africa. I played a few games which I enjoyed, and my confidence came flooding back.
"I returned to England, and started to play really well. In the pre-season friendlies I was going like an express train. It fulled me into a false sense of security, thought I was fitter than I actual was.

was."
"After five games I was be ning to struggle. Then I broke

nose and couldn't recapture my earlier form, so I was left out for

four games.

"I worked harder and I was brought back for the match at Luton and I grabbed a hat-trick. To score three was a real boost as you can imagine. Since then my form has improved no end

has improved no end.
"The Luton game heralded the arrival of Frank Worthington. I was everyone's favourite to be axed but it never crossed my mind. In fact, I was excited with the prospect of playing with the former England striker.

"I was proved right and since then we've struck up a good part-nership. We get on both on and off the field. I think our different attitudes blend well together. He's the smooth easy character and I'm the fiery one.

'He cools me down, and I look to Frank has been a tremendous help and he's really looked after me. His playboy image is a wrong one. He's one of the most down to earth people I've ever met. He's so interesting.

"Everybody likes him at the club and he's one of the most popular

figures at St. Andrews.

"My game has changed. My skill, which has probably been my weakest point, is improving enormously. I'm working harder at my game. The more you put in, the



more you get out.

"In football, if you're consistently playing well, then your life and everything else seems great. On the other hand if your form is struggling, it tends to affect you during the week.

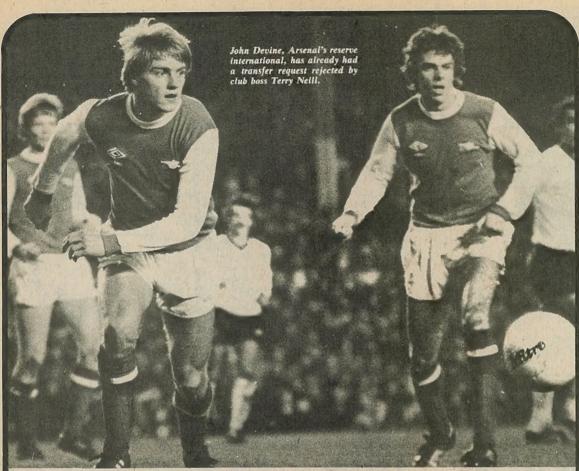
"But I'm bubbling at the moment

"But I'm bubbling at the moment.
"You've got to play against all sorts of defenders, but one person I definitely wouldn't want to face is our own Colin Todd. We have a real battle in training. He's so fast and strong. He reads the game well and if you're not on your toes, he'll get to every ball before you. He's strengthened me up. On match days I sometimes imagine Colin's behind me and that makes me sharper.

me sharper.

"There's plenty of competition for places up-front with five players for two spots. Tony Evans, Don Givens and Steve Lynex are all in contention, but I keep fighting

them off.
"It's a healthy situation to be in. And my present form is good enough to ensure I keep my place in the side as we battle to get Birmingham back in the First Divi-



JOHN Devine is a young man be holding down a regular first with high hopes. He wants to become an Arsenal first team regular Devine's dilemma is one that lar as the club embark on what could be the exciting 80's. He is already a fixture in the Republic of Ireland international squads.

But the difference between optimism and reality can be a big gap as Devine has already dis-

An Arsenal regular at the end of 1979, due to an injury to skipper Pat Rice, Devine grabbed his chance. His football was of a high quality, his consistency unchal-lenged as he stepped into Rice's role at right-back.

Devine, who has been at High-

six years, retained that place until Rice returned. Then, after a short spell out of position at left-back, Devine was dropped and was back in the reserves. At 21,

was back in the reserves. At 21, with international caps for Eire already in the cupboard, Devine was unhappy.
"I felt I'd done well enough to stay in the side," he said. "The people at Highbury kept telling me I had fitted in without trouble. But as soon as Pat Rice was fit, I was out and I didn't think it was fair."

Devine, as ambitious as any youngster, has a problem. Maniger Terry Neill has told him he has a future at Highbury. But Devine's understandable frustra-tion shows, when he replies: "Just when that first team future begins is another matter.

"It's hard to play internationa! football and then return to the Arsenal reserves. I feel I ought to

faces many youngsters. The Dublin-born defender wants to play First Division football now, rather than wait perhaps two or three years. He is still considering his future but says he won't wait forever at Highbury.

"It would break my heart to leave Arsenal," he admits. "I've been here since I was 15 and I chose it in preference to clubs such as Wolves, Manchester United and Everton. It was so friendly and it still is, and having other Dublin lads at the club helped me decide to come here. But if I have to go elsewhere to win a regular place, I'd do it."

Compatriots

Devine is yet another reason why Arsenal are nicknamed 'The London Irish' Football Club. Liam Brady, Frank Stapleton, David O'Leary, Pat Jennings, Pat Rice, Sammy Nelson and Terry Neill are others. O'Leary, Brady and Stapleton all came from an area of Dublin pages there there wiles from no more than two miles from Devine's home, yet Devine never knew his compatriots until he

arrived at Highbury.
"I watched Brady and O'Leary play in a Dublin Boys side," says Devine, "but they were a year or two older than me so I didn't know them in Ireland. But having some other lads who knew what it was like to leave home in Ireland at 15, and live in London, was a big help

felt and it made it far easier for me

Life, however, has by no means always run smoothly for Devine. He made his first team debut two seasons ago, playing in The Gun-ners' 3-1 win at Leeds; Arsenal's first win there in 40 years. He played three games that season and ten last term, but was kept out for a long time by hamstring injuries. He once spent seven months on the treatment table after injuring the medial ligaments in his knee.

Devine had a ferocious test on his international debut for Eire. He played in a friendly against Czechoslovakia with the Czechs including that flying wingman Marion Masny. Eire lost 4-1 but Devine admits: "I enjoyed it and I felt I did well. The Irish papers gave me the 'man of the match' rating which was a big compliment. I also played against Northern Ireland last season when Eire lost 1-0."

Devine says his ambition was always to play for his country. Now, with that achieved, he hopes to win many more international caps but, he admits, he would also like to achieve one other — "play-ing in Arsenal's first team for the next ten years."

He certainly has burning desires.

His footballing future looks assured, but the question remains whether it will be in North London with Arsenal. That is a problem only manager Terry Neill can sort out. It won't be an easy decision to make.



Their verdicts — Andy Grav and **Peter Shilton** give a special report on the League Cup Final.

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Kevin Reeves (above) on his heartbreaking decision to leave Norwich.

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GROUP 2 CYPRUS v REP. IRELAND NICOSIA

HE Republic of Ireland's reputation as one of the worst travellers on the international scene adds an ingredient to their opening World Cup, Group Two qualifying match in Cyprus, on March 26, which national manager John Giles could do without.

Statistics show that they do not produce the goods they display in Dublin when they play abroad. Yet anything short of a victory in Cyprus will put the whole of Giles's World Cup plans on the edge of a precipice.

After making a record number of appearances for The Republic, Giles dropped the 'player' prefix from his managerial title. So he is no longer able to influence his players once a game starts.

But in Arsenal's Europe-bound thought Frank Stapleton gave an genius Liam Brady, Giles has a



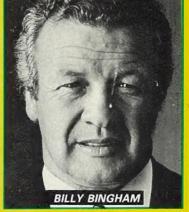
GROUP 6 ISRAELV N. IRELAND

N EWLY-appointed Northern Ireland supremo Billy Bingham could hardly have had a more daunting or demanding re-introduction to international management than next Wednesday's (March 26) vital opening World Cup Qualifying tie against Israel in Tel Aviv.

Belfast-born Bingham, himself a 56-times-capped Irish international winger and national team-chief between 1967 and 1971, has had relatively little time to formulate his big-match plans since his early-February return to the managerial limelight as successor to Danny Blanchflower.

And the fact that Northern Ireland currently don't exactly pos-sess an abundance of top-quality talent, notably up-front, certainly doesn't make ebullient Bingham's task any easier.

Initially, at any rate, he may bank



should expect instant success. We must be patient. Northern Ireland is a small country and consequently has limited resources. We are not in a position to make sweeping or dramatic changes.

"Even within our limitations, we must believe in ourselves, adopt the right attitude, and work hard at our game. We must be positive if we are going to make progress at this level. Other small nations have made an impact in recent World Cups, as we did when reaching the Quarter-Finals, in Sweden, back in 1958, and it could be our turn again this time."



worthy successor and a world class player.

He watched Brady struggle in vain to wrestle the reins away from Kevin Keegan at Wembley on February 6 when Ireland lost 2-0 to England. But Giles dismissed claims that his new captain had been anything less than out-

"I said it before the match and I stick by my statement — given a choice between Brady and Keegan as midfield players, I would choose Brady. Keegan took his goals very well against us, and he is a world class player. But speaking about specifically in midfield, playing Brady showed against England what a tremendous player he is.

"We have made progress as an international team. We have learned lessons and gained valuable experience. The match able experience. against pleased me, England despite the fact we lost. Ours was a young side. Only Steve Heighway could be described as a way could be described as a issue a real threat to Holland, senior, experienced player. So our France and Belgium in Group Two performance was satisfying.

All of which indicates that John Giles is pleased with his players. But what of Cyprus? What of the World Cup? What of the Irish squad and the way it is playing?

"There were very few chances in the England game. It was that type of match. But it was an ideal occa-

sion for the likes of young Chris Hughton, Ashley Grimes, Mark Lawrenson and Frank Stapleton.

excellent display.

Our defence made things very difficult for England, and up-front I

"I doubt if any manager in the world can say that he has the total blend in his team that he wants. That would be an ideal situation, but difficult to attain.

What you have to appreciate is that a manager seeks the right blend from the players at his dis-posal. If other players were available for selection, perhaps his whole team-structure would change, the blend would be different, the style of play different.
"I believe I have the right blend

for our forthcoming match in Cyprus, indeed, for our whole World Cup programme.

'Satisfied'

"But that does not mean that I am completely satisfied. I still seek to improve my playing squad.

Giles is not renowned for his enthusiasm to discuss his team outside the walls of their dressingroom. Nor is he prepared to utter one negative sentiment concerning their ambitions and chances on the long road to Spain.

But with players of the calibre of Brady, O'Leary, Lawrenson, Stapleton, Heighway, Givens, Daly, Hughton, Grimes, Grealish, Holmes, Langan, McGee, O'Cal-laghan, Ryan and Walsh to choose from, Giles knows he has an international team with a solid, First Division backbone laced with world-class flair.

It only remains for that team to overcome its travelling hoodoo to . . . starting in Cyprus.

on seasoned campaigners like Pat Sammy Nelson, Chris Nicholl, Allan Hunter, Martin O'Neill, Sammy McIlroy, Dave McCreery and Gerry Armstrong to form the nucleus of his World Cup squad. We may even yet again see wayward genius George Best back in a green jersey and Middlesbrough wing-ace Terry Cochrane, discarded by ex-boss Blanchflower, looks set to return to the international scene.

But with the likes of Mal Donaghy (Luton), John O'Neill (Leicester), Tommy Cassidy (Newcastle), Tom Sloan (Manchester United), Noel Brotherston (Blackburn), Trevor Anderson and Lind-say McKeown (Linfield), and Burnley duo Paul Dixon and Billy Hamilton all staking positive claims for regular recognition, the 'Old Brigade" will be kept on their

There will be no room for complacency, every player must play for his place, irrespective of past records or reputations," declares Bingham. "However, no one

Coincidentally, Ireland began Jennings, Pat Rice, Jimmy Nicholl, their pre-1970 World Cup build-up with a 3-2 away friendly triumph over Israel, an outcome Billy Bingham's men would be more than satisfied with in Wednesday's confrontation.

The Israelis have come a long way since our 1968 encounter," says Bingham. "They have improved their technique, are better organised, and, as our other Group Six rivals, Scotland, Sweden and Portugal may also discover, are no pushovers at home.

"It is essential we get a good result in next week's game. With the top two qualifying for the World Finals this time, we must stand a good chance of making it to Spain.

In much-travelled Bingham's last jaunt as Ireland mentor he totalled eight wins and three draws in 20 outings, fairly successful by Irish standards. Now he faces the monumental task of "lifting" his countrymen to that long-elusive and elevated World Cup Finals' spot for the first time in more than

